

# S plans \$70,000m answer to arms build-up by Russians

of the Soviet Union's military build-up, the US yesterday disclosed plans to spend \$70,000m on new intercontinental bombers in the next 10 years. Other undisclosed sums

on more than 100 warships, including two aircraft carriers. Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the American Defence Secretary, who announced the plans in the annual defence report to Congress, denied that they were inconsistent with détente.

## Sh with détente aims denied

between \$15,000m and \$20,000m over the next decade. The report also mentioned a possibility of starting development in 1978 of a new land-based missile system, estimated to cost as much as \$30,000m by 1988, and the Defence Department is expected to decide later this year on production of a B-1 bomber, which will cost an estimated \$20,000m over the 10 years.

Mr Rumsfeld said that the United States cannot escape the principal role in defending its own interests, and maintaining world stability. "If we falter or fail," he said, "there is no other power to take our place."

United States interests remained under challenge, primarily by the Soviet Union, which continues to add to its military capabilities quantitatively and qualitatively. These challenges can be seen in Europe, along the Mediterranean littoral, in the Middle East and Africa, in the Persian Gulf and, indirectly, in north-east Asia.

On the point of the Defence Secretary's suggestion that Japan should consider establishing a navy to protect its own shores, Japan's ability to play a role in the world depended on the defence umbrella provided by the United States.

The main threat to the sea lanes of the north-west Pacific came from Russian "killer" submarines. Mr Rumsfeld continued. They had to be contained by the United States Navy, which faced the task with the smallest number of ships since 1939.

"It is in Japan's interest to improve her capabilities for her conduct of an anti-submarine warfare campaign in the western Pacific and we hope to see the United States-Japanese cooperation in this field."

He thought that the main danger remained in Europe, even though the Russians had increased their forces in the Far East by a proportionally greater amount. There were about a million troops east of the Elbe, with a tactical force of some 3,000 aircraft and the largest concentration of tanks in the world.

## Big vote in Congress to stop aid for Angola

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 27

The House of Representatives today voted by a large majority (322 to 100) to ban further military aid to anti-communist forces in Angola, despite a last-minute appeal by President Ford.

The ban is attached as an amendment to a Defence Appropriations Bill, and the Senate has already approved it. Even were the President to veto the Bill, his opponents could almost certainly find the two-thirds vote needed in both Houses to override the veto.

In a letter to the Speaker of the House, Mr Ford said that the military aid to the anti-communist forces in Angola would be destroyed in the absence of effective Western assistance.

The President wrote that "the imposition of a military solution (by Soviet armaments and a Cuban expeditionary force) would have the most profound long-range significance for the United States."

Between March and December of last year the Soviet Union had poured \$200m (£100m) in arms aid and Cuba had sent 10,000 troops into Angola. The President said the United States had dispatched modest amounts of assistance to the anti-communist forces.

"The United States assistance, small as it was, began to reverse the tide and block the Soviet-backed effort to take over the country by force," Mr Ford said.

Mr Ford said his efforts to counter this by a request for \$28m in arms aid plus a diplomatic offensive had failed because of Congress opposition.

He went on to say that if the United States did nothing, "we will send a message of irresolution not only to the leaders of African nations but to United States allies and friends throughout the world."

The President's anguished message resembles those he sent to Congress as Cambodia slid southwards into the jaws of the Khmer Rouge. He then claimed that unless large-scale military aid were supplied immediately, those two nations would fall to the communists.



The BBC's film archives, which are to be examined by a committee advising on their best use in the national interest. Report, page 16.

## Cod war talks fail to find acceptable formula

By Roger Berthoud

A bleak statement issued last night by No 10 Downing Street suggested that Mr Wilson's three days of talks with Mr Hallgrímsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister, had ended without producing a mutually acceptable solution to the three-month-old cod war.

Both prime ministers will be consulting their colleagues this morning, and Mr Wilson is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons this afternoon. They will be in touch again shortly, which suggests that further negotiations may be necessary.

A return visit to London by Mr Hallgrímsson is not ruled out. No one expected Mr Hallgrímsson to be able to commit his Government to a deal during his London talks. But there was little confidence in Whitehall last night that he would be able, or even anxious, to do so.

Mr Wilson and his team considered the final British offer to be extremely generous. It is safe to say that if Mr Hallgrímsson had been remotely confident about its acceptability to Icelandic public opinion, the talks would have ended on a much less pessimistic note.

Last night's statement said: "Discussions between the British and Icelandic Governments were continued at 10 Downing Street this morning and concluded this afternoon at the House of Commons. The Icelandic Prime Minister, who is returning to Iceland tonight, will be reporting on the talks to his Government colleagues."

It is thought that Iceland wanted the cut in Britain's quota to come into effect immediately, rather than progressively. Other questions involved are fishing zones, the times of fishing, the size of nets and the numbers and types of ships permitted to fish—though these would be largely determined by Icelandic quotas and the intervention of British frigates will be resumed.

In that event Iceland would certainly fulfill its threat to break off diplomatic relations. The details of Mr Smith's participation were not worked out until August 18, when Mr Guthrie met Sir Don Ryder to discuss the formation of a partnership to buy the Bewbush estate. The partnership was to form the basis of Keatfield, the company that bought the estate from Mr Brooks for £3.25m in October, 1972, before reselling 310 acres of the land four months later to Crawley Council for £7m.

It was at the August meeting that Mr Guthrie and Sir Don agreed "in the light of Mr Brooks's known approval" to allow a 20 per cent interest in the net profit to Mr Smith. "We discussed the meeting that my chief surveyor had with

and accepted what he told him "without reservation". Mr Brooks had told Mr Redman that he fully accepted that Weller, Eggar would want to act for the purchasers in the event of a resale of the land, and had said how pleased he would be if Mr John Smith, his friend of long standing, was given an opportunity to participate in the venture if it proved profitable.

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## Tory delight as Mrs Thatcher demands Labour defence pledge

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster  
To the evident discomfort of the Prime Minister, and to the great delight of Conservative MPs, Mrs Thatcher, in the Commons yesterday renewed her onslaught on the Russians for their aggressive military tactics and their growing threat to the West.

Seizing that she could rally the Tory Party behind her, and to the cheers of her backbenchers, she demanded that Mr Wilson should speak up for the effective defence of Britain and its way of life against those who permitted neither freedom of speech nor travel and who had to build a wall to keep in their people.

She described the Soviet Union's response to her warnings last week about its aggression as a "hysterical outburst from Moscow". As for Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, who had called her speech "reactionary," Mr Wilson said that was a trivial response to "the factual and balanced speeches" of the Foreign Secretary and herself.

The exchanges began after a Conservative MP, Mr Nevill Truett, had said that although the Russians would not doubt prefer a socialist government, they would respect us more if we were led by an iron lady rather than a Plasticine man.

The Prime Minister replied laughingly that the Soviet Union, being realistic, paid less attention to the old speech here and there, than to the receipts of governments.

As Mrs Thatcher renewed her demands for a pledge that there would be no further defence cuts, Mr Wilson told her that Nato was "extremely satisfied" with Britain's contribution to the defence of the West. Any review of defence expenditure would not reduce the effective size of our commitment to Nato.

Mr Wilson agreed with her about the Berlin wall, and the outburst from Moscow, but his main purpose was to imply that, true or false, her words were a source of offence when taken in the overall context of the great struggle for setting all the world's problems that he and other international statesmen were in the process of drawing up.

Mr Wilson was not so happy about the way in which the Tory leader had bracketed herself at the same level of assault as the Foreign Secretary. She was "wrong," he said, in making comparisons between herself and Mr Callaghan. The difference was that the Foreign Secretary had been dealing with the world's problems with great knowledge, whereas Mrs Thatcher had been dealing with them with great ignorance.

In playing down the Tory leader's warnings, Mr Wilson managed to agree with almost everyone. Moscow was realistic, the United States was the main bulwark of Nato, Mr Callaghan and Mr Mason were men of great vision, knowledge and purpose, while Lord Cowney-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said, South Vietnam was the only country in the world which people criticized whoever they liked, had made by far the best contribution to the whole affair.

Not was the Prime Minister that critical about Mrs Thatcher and her views. They were realistic, she said, and her analysis included a number of long accepted truths that she had just discovered.

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## ANC leader wants Mr Todd free to join in Rhodesia talks

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the internal wing of the African National Council, wants Mr Garfield Todd, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, freed from detention to join the ANC team in the constitutional talks with Mr Ian Smith's Government. Mr Todd has been

restricted to his ranch, forbidden to communicate with the outside world, for four years. Yesterday Mr Nkomo said that two ANC officials freed from detention that morning, and Mr Todd, freed by his side, "Quiet diplomacy" had obtained the release of the first two.

Mr Nkomo said that the ANC was not interested in the release of Mr Todd for his own sake, but because he was a man of great vision, knowledge and purpose, while Lord Cowney-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said, South Vietnam was the only country in the world which people criticized whoever they liked, had made by far the best contribution to the whole affair.

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## 'Special commission agreed' in land deal

By Diana Geddes

Mr John Guthrie, owner of Broadland Properties and a director of Keatfield, the company involved in the Bewbush estate, said yesterday that he had told Sir Don Ryder, then chairman of the Reed Pension Fund (now Lord Ryder of Eton, Hastings), that Mr Lionel Brooks, owner of the Bewbush estate, had given his approval to a special commission being paid to Mr John Smith, of Weller, Eggar, the estate agents, in the event of a resale of the land.

Mr Guthrie, who was one of the few people privy to the details of the transaction, said that Mr Brooks probably did not know about the size of the interest in the net profitability of the venture that Mr Guthrie and Sir Don, now chairman of the National Enterprise Board, had decided to allow Mr Smith to take. Mr Guthrie said he had no first-hand proof of Mr Brooks's approval, but he had excellent second-hand proof from Mr R. H. Redman, his chief surveyor, who had met Mr Brooks and Mr Smith at the end of July, 1972, to discuss the Bewbush transaction. He had complete confidence in Mr Redman.

It was at the August meeting that Mr Guthrie and Sir Don agreed "in the light of Mr Brooks's known approval" to allow a 20 per cent interest in the net profit to Mr Smith. "We discussed the meeting that my chief surveyor had with

and accepted what he told him "without reservation". Mr Brooks had told Mr Redman that he fully accepted that Weller, Eggar would want to act for the purchasers in the event of a resale of the land, and had said how pleased he would be if Mr John Smith, his friend of long standing, was given an opportunity to participate in the venture if it proved profitable.

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## auding joins onslaught on Russia

maxim, "Actions speak louder than words". With that in mind many Conservatives felt that the performance of the Russian Government since Helsinki had been disappointing.

"It is only right that I should say this, because it is true, and because if we are to have mutual understanding it is important that you should be aware how your Government's policies appear to us," Mr Maudling said.

He believed that concern in the United Kingdom, which was widespread, rested on four main points, which he outlined as follows:

1. Little if any action has been taken by your government since Helsinki in the wide range of matters affecting individual freedom, described as Basket III. Yet it would have been very simple for you to take substantial and early steps here, and you know how much importance is attached to these matters in this country.

I have not had even an acknowledgement from Mr Ruben. Your government appear to have deserted since Helsinki in providing substantial assistance, particularly financial, to communist parties in the Western world, these parties, if elected to power, would be to leave Nato, and so weaken the defence of the West.

3. Great concern is felt about recent developments in Angola, and the presence there of a large contingent of Cuban regular forces who could not have intervened without your government's support and approval, and who appear to have received large supplies of modern weapons from the Soviet Union. Many people in this country, remembering the famous phrase of Comrade Khrushchev, would say that if peace is indivisible, détente must be indivisible too.

superiority in the central region, in tanks, guns and tactical aircraft. Your rate of spending on defence is such that this preponderance has been growing. "If I am wrong, I hope you will correct me, for, as you will readily recognise, it is important that the true situation should be generally known."

Mr Maudling said there was particular concern about the expansion of the Soviet Navy. He said that the Soviet Navy, successful or unsuccessful, it has, of course, come by sea, because we are an island. You, to your turn, have been invaded on several occasions and no one in this country has forgotten the suffering your people endured under the onslaught of Hitler, or the courage they showed in repelling his

ports: Squash rackets: Chichester professional tournament: Racing: Carlisle programme. Features, pages 11 and 14. Bernard Levin visits the exhibition of Thracian treasures at the British Museum: Denis Taylor on the politics behind Ireland's religious war: Margaret Madsen on comprehensive schools: Dr Hugh Kelly on answers to children's difficult questions.

Business News, pages 17 to 22. Stock markets: On light selling leading equities drifted downward and the FT Index closed 4.6 off, at 329.5. Business features: Richard Layard suggests an approach to solving the problem of reducing unemployment without adding to inflation: Alan Hutchinson on Russian chances of making a "comeback" as a major influence in Africa. Business Diary: How the CBI used outside headhunting to find its new director-general.

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## Peace call in Ulster gets uneven response

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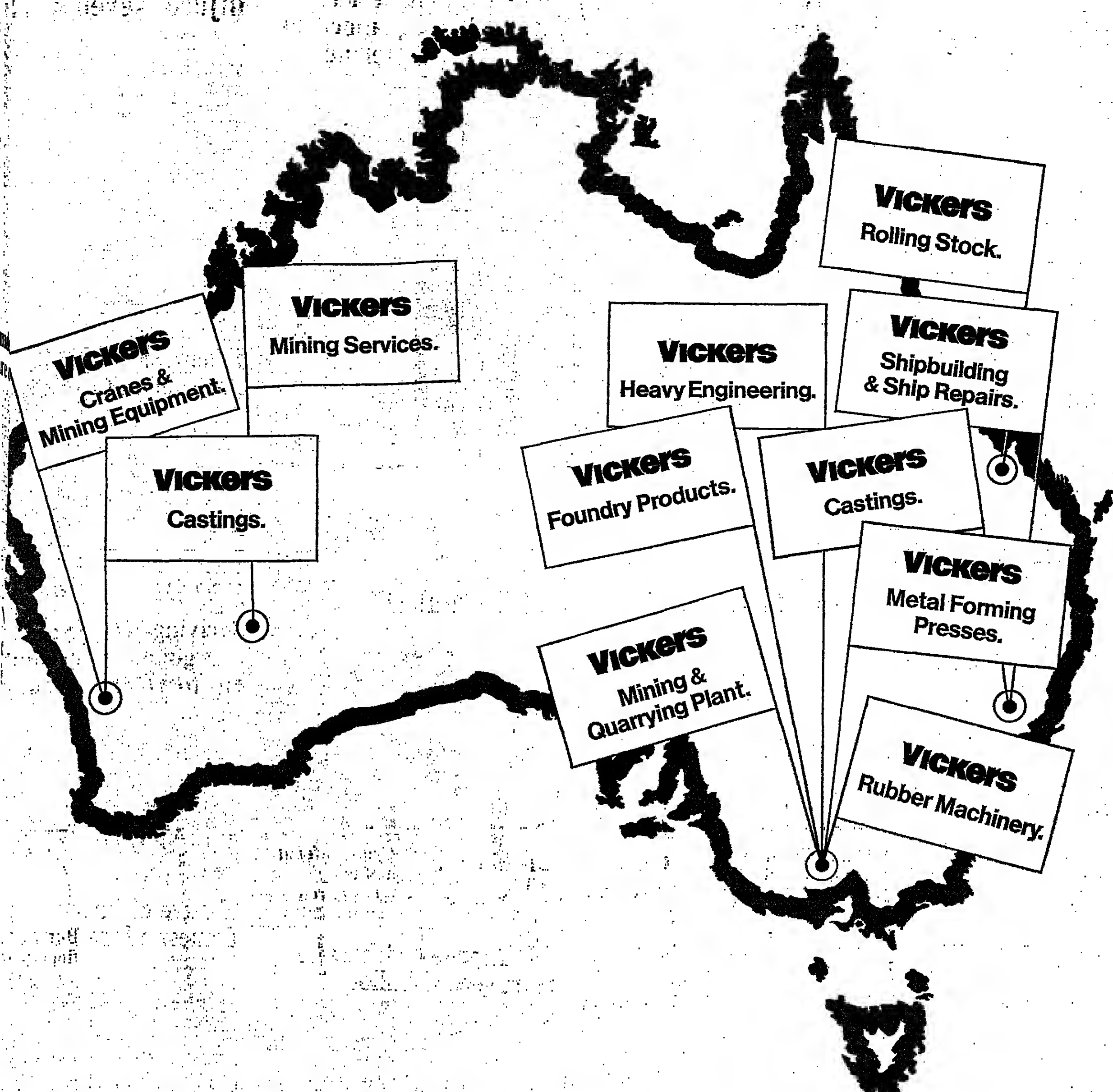


Submarine  
injures seven

Women lose  
decision on fare

Driving test  
fee going  
up to £6.75

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## Vickers

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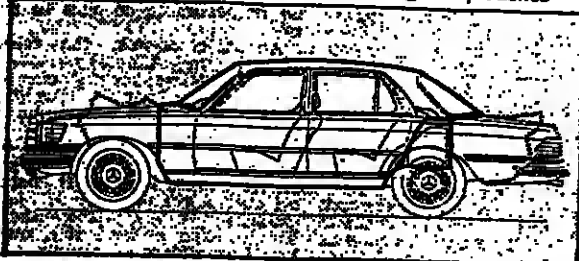
June 1950

# How safe is the car you're getting into?

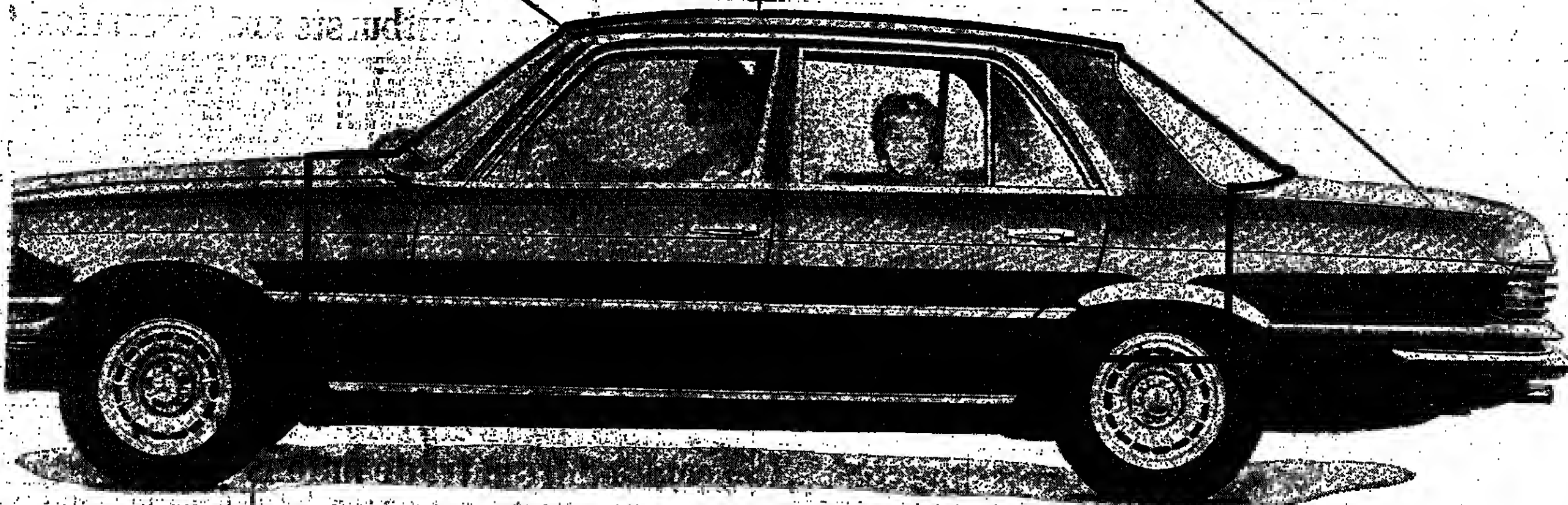
Pillars channelled to keep side windows clear.



Rigid passenger cell with impact absorbing crumple zones.



Aerodynamic ribbing aids rear light visibility.



Thanks to the law, most car manufacturers now accept some measure of responsibility for your safety.

And most are happy to talk to you about collapsible steering columns, resilient bumpers and burst-proof locks.

But surprisingly the most vital topic of any car safety discussion is frequently passed over.

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With 13 million cars crowding our city streets and restricted motorways, we believe that driver stress is of critical importance.

That's why you'll find that every Mercedes is designed specifically to ease the pressures on the driver.

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Our advanced engineering features, like anti-dive front suspension, directionally stable rear suspension and 4-wheel disc braking ensure precise handling. And that's something that takes a load off a driver's mind.

Another comforting feature of our cars is their interior.

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and upholstery. But in terms of 316° all-round visibility, anatomically correct seating, logically arranged controls that you can reach without straining

and a door mirror that adjusts from inside.

Our concern for drivers extends outside our cars. To dirt-resistant rear light clusters. And ingenious channels that divert rain from obscuring your view.

In all, each Mercedes incorporates over 100 features in its integrated safety system.

Just as you'd expect from the inventors of the passenger safety cell, many are designed to have a cushioning effect, should an accident occur.

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But, as we said earlier, we believe our cars' greatest strength is their natural ability to keep a driver out of trouble too.

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What we are determined to do is to make the valuable contribution which the overseas doctors have made to the NHS, is to expand the medical intake of our own schools and to ensure that we are going ahead and will be ahead whatever the economic stringency.

MR HURD (Mid-Oxon, C) asked for comments on the number of doctors emigrating from the United Kingdom to other EEC countries.

MRSS CASTLE—The latest information available relates to 1971-72 when 40 British doctors left for other member-states of the EEC. The Government is for special monitoring of movement to and from the EEC so as to provide more up-to-date information on the effect of the directives on the movement which come into effect on January 1, 1977.

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when the use of amaranth was  
originally due to a review.  
The Commission has now in-  
structed the experts who are  
members of the Community's  
consultative body, the Scien-  
tific Committee for Food, to  
look at the amaranth data to  
see whether amaranth should  
now be banned in the EEC.  
The committee is expected to  
report back to the Commission  
within the next month or so,  
when a final decision will  
be taken. Under Community  
legislation, member govern-  
ments have agreed on a list of  
foods which can be added to  
food products for human con-  
sumption. But member states  
retain full control over the  
application of these rules.

From Our Correspondent  
Vienna, Jan 27  
Vienna's "UN City", the new  
building complex, providing  
offices for 4,500 officials, con-  
tinues to be a source of dis-  
agreement between Switzerland  
and Austria, the two neutral  
Central European states.  
The proposal for the resiting  
of United Nations offices came  
up at the last session of the  
General Assembly. It was  
decided that with 17,000 square  
yards of office space and tech-  
nical accommodation becoming  
available in Vienna by 1980, the  
United Nations would occupy  
space in the new building as  
soon as possible and cease  
renting private office space in  
New York and Geneva.  
To the past two years alone  
the United Nations has paid out  
\$40m (£20m) in Geneva for  
extra office space. Not sur-  
prisingly, Geneva feels itself  
menaced by the Vienna-UN  
City and succeeded in persuad-  
ing the Swiss Government,  
which is not a member of the  
United Nations, to act on its  
behalf.  
The Swiss tried to use the  
Yugoslavs as their spokesmen

in New York but found them  
unwilling to argue in the  
General Assembly against using  
the Vienna accommodation as  
fully as possible, partly because  
Yugoslavia's relations with  
Austria are improving, and  
because the whole of Eastern  
Europe is pleased to see a size-  
able part of the United Nations  
organization moving close to its  
western borders.  
The Swiss attempts to pre-  
vent, or at least delay, the  
resiting of United Nations  
offices have cast a shadow over  
the usually excellent relations  
between Vienna and Bern.  
The Austrian Government  
regards the Swiss as having  
moved stealthily against Vienna,  
while the Swiss unofficially  
accuse the Austrians of shifting  
their stand on their UN City.  
This is not altogether  
Austria's fault. The Inter-  
national Atomic Energy Agency  
and the United Nations Indus-  
trial Development Organization,  
both housed already in Vienna,  
grossly overestimated their  
requirements for housing in the  
UN City, claiming room for  
7,000 officials and then reduc-  
ing the estimate to 2,500. The  
bewildered Austrians decided,

France tightens screw on tax  
evaders despite protests

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 27

The Government is to step  
up its campaign against tax  
evasion both by companies and  
individuals, in spite of growing  
protests, especially from  
employers.

French authorities realize  
that President Giscard d'Esta-  
ing's promise to promote social  
justice will lack force if many  
groups are seen to be escaping  
tax. They are therefore deter-  
mined to press ahead, with  
capital gains tax, in spite of its  
unpopularity.

M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the  
Finance Minister, said yester-  
day that in the past year  
47,000 firms had been sub-  
jected to fiscal controls, and  
5,000m francs (about £600m)  
in unpaid taxes (excluding  
penalties) had been recovered  
by the state. Similarly, scrutiny  
of about 12,000 individual tax-  
payers had yielded 500m  
francs. Controls carried out  
purely on the basis of official  
returns had produced a further  
1.8m francs.

Former editor  
jailed in Spain

Madrid, Jan 27.—A political  
court has sentenced a former  
newspaper editor to two years  
in jail for falsifying reports that  
mercenaries had landed in the  
American naval base of Rota  
to be used in an invasion of  
Portugal, legal sources said to-  
day.

Señor Federico Villagrán  
Bustillo, who edited the Sevillie  
newspaper *Correo de Andalucía*,  
was found guilty of "permit-  
ting the publication of tenden-  
tious news and attempting to  
discredit the authorities of the  
state"—UPI.

## Policemen shot dead

Alcamo Marina, Sicily, Jan 27.—Two policemen were shot  
dead today at a police  
post in this beach village.

China wants  
to discuss  
trade pact  
with EEC

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 27

China has indicated that it  
intends to send an official dele-  
gation to Brussels in the next  
few months to open preliminary  
talks on a trade agreement with  
the EEC, sources close to the  
European Commission dis-  
closed today.

This is a logical next step in  
the development of Sino-EEC  
relations. China became the  
first state-trading country  
(apart from Yugoslavia) to re-  
cognize the Community last  
September when Mr Li Lien-pi  
was accredited as Peking's am-  
bassador to the EEC.

The Chinese expressed inter-  
est in a trade agreement when  
Sir Christopher Soames, the  
commissioner for External  
Affairs, visited Peking last May.  
Since then there have been fur-  
ther contacts between EEC  
officials and members of the  
Chinese mission in Brussels.

Chinese interest in a trade  
agreement is seen in Brussels  
as more political than economic,  
reflecting Peking's view of the  
EEC as a strategic intermediate  
zone of industrial capitalist  
states seeking their independ-  
ence from the "hegemony" of  
the two superpowers.

China's esdigious cultivation  
of relations with the EEC is in  
marked contrast to the Soviet  
Union's reluctance even to re-  
cognize the existence of the  
Community, an attitude which  
has bedevilled relations be-  
tween the EEC and Comecon,  
the Soviet-dominated East Euro-  
pean economic block.

The first exploratory contacts  
between the EEC and Comecon  
took place in Moscow nearly a  
year ago. An invitation to  
Comecon to continue the dis-  
cussions in Brussels has never  
been taken up, though there  
are some signs that a reply  
may at last be in preparation.  
Kosina, is so far, the only  
Comecon country to have shown  
clear interest in a trade agree-  
ment with the EEC as a whole,  
and has already agreed to enter  
into negotiations on a textile  
accord with the Community.

The agreement envisaged by  
the EEC with China would in-  
clude a "most favoured nation"  
clause and provide for the pro-  
gressive removal of remaining  
barriers to trade. The Chinese,  
however, are not interested in  
industrial cooperation.

According to figures supplied  
by the European Commission,  
China at the end of 1973  
accounted for less than 1 per  
cent of the EEC's total trade.  
The Community, on the other  
hand, was China's third largest  
trading partner.

Call to speed up incomes  
policy for Portugal

From Our Own Correspondent

Lisbon, Jan 27

The military Council of the  
Revolution, Portugal's highest  
political body, today indicated  
its anxiety over the effects of  
the economic situation on the  
civilian population.

In a communiqué after its  
regular weekly all-night session,  
the council called on the  
military-led three-party Govern-  
ment to speed up the introduc-  
tion of an incomes policy which  
would correct social inequali-  
ties, and to protect old age  
pensioners from the impact of  
austerity measures.

The council also said it had  
taken action, which it did not  
specify, to resolve the dispute  
over control of the Socialist

paper República, which was  
taken over by its communist-  
led workers last year.

In a separate development,  
20 unspecified number of politi-  
cal prisoners, detained after the  
abortive "leftwing" military up-  
rising on November 25, have  
been released on remand. There  
has been speculation that  
General Otelo Saraiva de  
Carvalho, the former com-  
mander of the Lisbon military  
region and internal security  
chief, may receive similar treat-  
ment.

Meanwhile, the cases of  
prisoners detained after the  
abortive right-wing coup of  
March 11 are reported to have  
been filed with the military  
tribunal.

CIA handouts are denied  
by US Embassy in Rome

Rome, Jan 27.—The United

States Embassy has issued a  
statement describing as "totally  
without foundation" press re-  
ports that the Central Intelli-  
gence Agency has spent \$6m  
(£3m) in Italy since December.

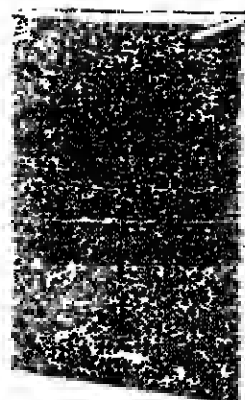
It also denied other allega-  
tions "naming individual  
Italian politicians and labour  
union officials as being the  
recipients of these funds".

Repeating the claim made  
earlier this month by Mr Wil-  
liam Colby, the CIA director,  
the embassy said: "The United  
States Government has not  
spent any money in Italy as  
alleged in these stories".  
American newspapers re-  
ported on January 7 that the

CIA was slipping money to anti-  
Communist politicians to help  
 fend off further leftist advances  
 in Italy, where the Communist  
 Party won 2,500,000 new votes  
 in regional elections last June.

The Turin newspaper *Stampa*  
Sera, quoting Washington  
sources, said on Monday that  
factious in the Christian Demo-  
cratic and Social Democratic  
parties, and a union faction  
may have received CIA funds  
in December and January.  
Their leaders all denied this.

Yesterday the leaders of the  
Christian Democrats voted to  
ask President Ford to expose  
all the facts about alleged CIA  
payments in Italy so that the  
doubts could be cleared up.

Books from oyez  
on business and  
finance.Acquisition of Private  
Companies

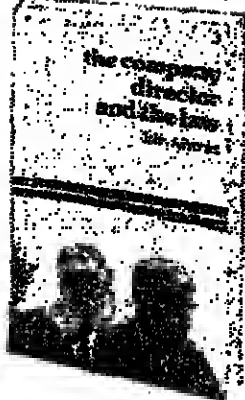
By W. J. L. Knight

A practical guide to the legal aspects of  
the acquisition of shares in a private  
company. After an introductory chapter  
the author covers acquisitions by listed  
companies; stamp duty; including  
information on stamp duty; including  
taxation; the agreement for sale; and  
ancillary documents. Appropriate Stock  
Exchange Regulations and a specimen  
circular giving notice of acquisition are  
included.  
1975 £4.80 post paid

Business Law in the  
Middle East

Edited by Brian Russell

The content of this book provides a  
readable guide to the requirements of  
and business atmosphere in the Middle  
East. Sections include: requirements for  
successful negotiation; taxation and tax  
planning; contractual issues; practical  
aspects of doing business; and a review  
of the British Government's thoughts on  
how it may best help exporters and  
businessmen. Based on a series of Oyez  
IBC conferences.  
1975 £5.20 post paid

Company Director and  
the Law

By John A. Franks

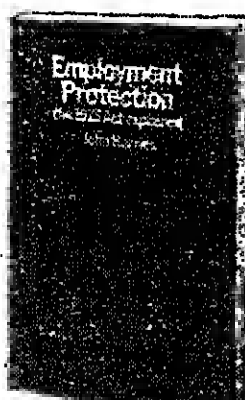
"This book should be invaluable to  
directors or budding directors through-  
out the whole spectrum... This is a  
readable and wide ranging account of  
the various areas of the law which  
concern the company director and  
deserves to be widely read by such."  
Industrial Society  
Reprinted 1975 £2.20 post paid



## Company Tax Strategy

By Michael Z. Hepker

An up-to-date survey of the many tax  
saving opportunities available to  
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as a separate point, is clearly explained,  
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"A neat, handy and practical guide to  
Michael Foot's important new brainchild."  
The Sunday Times  
1976 £4.25 post paid

Lawton and Sumption's  
Tax Planning

By Philip Lawton and Anthony

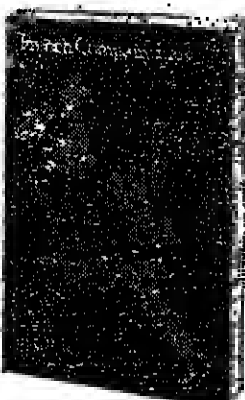
Sumption  
The introduction of capital transfer tax  
has made tax planning more complex  
than ever, so a new edition of 'Lawton  
and Sumption' is very welcome.  
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A practical guide to the operation and  
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## OVERSEAS

# Arabs regard outcome of debate in Security Council as a victory despite American veto

From Peter Stafford  
New York, Jan 27

After two weeks of discussion, the United Nations Security Council last night ended its debate on the Middle East with an American veto. The veto had been expected, however, and in spite of their criticism of the American action, most of the Arabs appeared to feel that they had made some gains during the debate.

Mr. Mowafik Akl, the Syrian representative, described the vote as a landmark in the handling of the Middle East question. Although the draft resolution had not been adopted, it had won the support of the majority of the council. "Morally, the resolution has been adopted," he declared.

On their side, the Americans were making every effort to avoid embarrassing the situation further. In a statement after the vote last night, Mr. Daniel P. Moynihan, the American representative, said that the American veto had not been based on animosity to the Arabs, but rather on the conviction that the resolution would not help them.

"Many, we know, will be disappointed that we do not have a resolution to use and refer to, but for our part let me say that we have none the less profited from the various views that have been expressed, and we have increased our understanding of the enormous complexities before us."

The veto was the thirteenth cast by the Americans, and their fourth on a resolution on the Middle East. They were the only member of the Council to vote against the resolution, which was supported by nine members. Britain, Italy and Sweden abstained, while China and Libya decided not to take part in the vote because they felt the resolution was too favourable to Israel.

The main points in the draft resolution, and the ones to which the Americans particularly objected, were its support for the inalienable national rights of self-determination of the Palestinians, including the right to establish an independent state in Palestine, and its call for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

These were balanced by a reference to the right of all states in the area to live within secure and recognized boundaries, in a gesture to the Arab states. But this was not enough for the Americans, and too much for China and Libya.

Underlying the whole debate was the question whether to maintain in principle the Security Council's Resolution 242, adopted in 1967, and Resolution 338, adopted in 1973. For the Americans, the main issue was the principle of self-determination, while the Arabs either rejected them altogether or else felt that they needed to be complemented by recognition of the Palestinians as a political entity.

The issue was crystallized by a British amendment which was introduced at the last moment and caused a diplomatic flurry. The amendment would simply have stated that nothing in the new resolution would supersede Resolutions 242 and 338. After this had been rejected both Sweden and Italy, which had been expected to support the resolution, decided to abstain.

The Arabs were not grateful to Britain for bringing the issue out into the open in this way, and reducing the support for the resolution, and Britain was sharply criticized in later speeches.

The main question now is what effect the debate, and the vetoed resolution, will have on the Middle East situation. In a statement last night, Israel, which had been boycotting the debate, called for a resumption of the Geneva peace conference, and so did the State Department in Washington.

But there are bound to be difficulties over whether the Palestine Liberation Organization should take part.

After the vote, Mr. Farouk Khaddoum, the leader of the PLO delegation, said that the Palestinians had national rights.

The worst fear, expressed last night by Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, is that lack of movement in the Middle East could lead to new outbreaks of violence.

Leading article, page 15

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 27

Explaining the veto seemed to be seeking to mollify the Arabs by conceding that views expressed in the debate had widened the United States view of the problem and could help the search for peace. This was a double-edged sword, Arab spokesmen felt, which finds no echo in Jerusalem.

Cairo, Jan 27.—A senior Egyptian Government official said today that the United States position on the Palestinian issue had become "not only isolated but also untenable."

In the same breath, the official blamed "theatrical" overblowing by Syria and the PLO for the failure of the Security Council to act on the Middle East crisis yesterday.

The official, who preferred to be anonymous, said this time the United States "is isolated from Western Europe because Italy, Sweden, France and Britain, in regard to the way they voted, put on record during the debate their support of Palestinian national rights."

In a clear reference to Syrian and PLO tactics at the Security Council debate, the official said: "The Arabs should learn that effective and wise steps constitute the best policy they can adopt. Those of them who propose more theatrical steps tend to hand the Israelis an apparent victory. Egypt would continue to follow a line of 'persistent and reasonable political escalation' in search of a settlement, with Palestinian participation."

One source close to the Government said: "We are not sure why the United States used the veto and we regret it." The veto was brought on by Syrian-PLO efforts "to put too much into one measure at the wrong time."—UPI

Reaffirming the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territories by the threat or use of force.

Reaffirming further the necessity of the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations as well as for its resolutions concerning the question of the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, in accordance with its Resolution 301 (1975) of November 30, 1975.

Having heard the representatives of parties concerned, the Security Council, representing the Palestinian people, convinced that the question of Palestine is the core of the conflict in the Middle East,

Expressing its concern over the continuing deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, and deeply deploring Israel's persistence in its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its refusal to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions,

1. Affirms:

(a) That the Palestinian people should be enabled to exercise its inalienable national right of self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state in Palestine in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) The right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours to do so and the right to receive compensation for their property;

(c) That Israel should withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since June, 1967;

(d) That appropriate arrangements should be established to guarantee, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the security, territorial integrity and political independence of all states in the area and their right to live in peace and secure and recognized boundaries;

2. Decides that the provisions contained in Paragraph 1 should be taken fully into account in all international negotiations concerning the question of the Middle East;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps as soon as possible for the implementation of the provisions of this resolution and to report to the Security Council on the progress achieved;

4. Decides to convene within a period of six months to consider the report by the Secretary-General and to take such action as it may deem appropriate in order to pursue its responsibilities regarding such implementation.

Mr. Whitlam scored 36 votes and Mr. Bowen 14. Mr. Frank Crean, former Deputy Prime Minister, and considered Mr. Whitlam's only real rival, received 13 votes. The contest for the deputy leadership of the party gave an unexpected result, with Mr. Tom Uren, a left-winger, defeating Mr. Paul Keating by 33 votes to 30.

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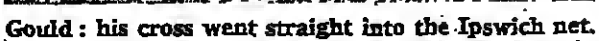
By Gerry Harrison

Ipswich was forced to reshuffle their pack because of injuries to Hunter and Wynmark. They were replaced by the experienced out of action, Warke. 18, came in at the back. Mills went to full back and Austin was added to the defence. The first half was over with his first appearance in place of the injured Bilbitt.

Playing a bold gambler's hand, Ipswich sent their reserves into the attack. Bailey and Carr in the Wolves' midfield were confined to defensive work, but the Wolves' defence was troubled even from a clutch of free kicks and corners. When the Wolves broke, usually from a corner, the Ipswich goalkeeper always a worried look about the Ipswich rearguard, a town built on somewhat of a bluff. Within a minute, Richards almost finished off Parkins's free kick. O'Hara's brilliant run opened up a chance for Beattie to shoot, but he slipped. Ipswich intercepted, it stunk with a superb interception.

At the start of the second half Ipswich battled with the Wolves once again driven back and Wolves trying to keep the ball in the half. Ipswich's main liability through Talbot, Osborne and Woods played, another Ipswich player, the referee was called. Before Austin was offered a half opening which he screwed past the far post. Meanwhile the Wolves were making a mistake by Parky before Beattie raced to catch him.

Although the pace slackened, the Wolves' defence unchanged with Parkes a dash more involved. Five minutes from the end, he passed the ball to the Wolves on the bar and over Wolves celebrated by winning their second



shock results and there are injuries. This was a good analysis. We played all the football, and we were beaten by a freak goal. There must be something up there which doesn't like me."

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS:** P. Anderson, D. Perkins, M. Bailey, J. McAlus, W. Carr, G. O'Hara, F. Munro, N. Bell, R. Gould (ex-Scrimmage), J. Richards.

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** P. Cooper, C. Surley, M. MMA, B. Talbot, J. Ward, K. Beattie, C. Woods, R. Osborne, H. Johnson (mb. E. Bates), T. Austin, M. Lambert.

Referee: M. Lowe (Sheffield).

**By John Nicholls**

been notoriously weak in front of goal, and last night their trio of lightweight forwards were as tame as lambs.

The 18-year-old winger, James, was substituted by Wilson in the second half, and with Graham Smith's return to the team began to look more threatening. Then, following some patient approach work by Charlton, Flanagan crossed from the left wing and Powell was on hand to push the ball neatly past Lloyd.

Portsmouth hardly had time to kick off before they were again funnelled back into their own half and gave away a throw-in in a harmless looking situation. It was then that the danger lurked down the right, wasted no time with his cross, and this time it was Flanagan who was sent flying over the bar. The resulting header from goal was a solo effort in which he ran round the goalkeeper and shot into an unguarded corner.

It was typical of Portsmouth's play that their best (and almost only) attacks were both started by the full-backs, albeit unsuccessful, by Mellows, their left back.

SOUTHAMPTON C. Lloyd; C. Lawrie, M. Mellows, J. Rogers, E. West, G. Williams, D. Wright, R. Young, A. Graham, R. Reynolds, W. Evans (sub), S. Hogg.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC: G. Tully, M. Bennett, J. Carron, M. Flanagan, P. Powell, J. Richards, B. Bates, G. Hogg, K. Harvey, J. Hogg, J. Hogg, J. Hogg, J. Hogg.

**Yesterday's results**

**FA Cup**

**Fourth round replays**

Portsmouth (0) 0 Charlton A (0) 3  
3-7222

Wolverhampton v Wolves (replay)  
Wolves won 1-1 (1st replay) (0) 0  
Winners' pool (12) 10 Ipswich U (0) 0  
3-1633

**Second division**

Boston W (3) 3 Luton T (0) 0  
Aston V (0) 0  
3-1008

**Third division**

Huddersfield (1) 1 Crewe A (0) 0  
3-1008

**Southern League: First division**

Reading v Brentford (goal)  
Reading 5, Brentford 1 (goal)  
3-1008

**Southern League: Second division**

Carlisle Athletic 2

A football team,

Police came to the rescue of a linesman, David Owen, of Wirral, at the fourth division game between Huddersfield Town and Luton yesterday last night. A spectator leapt on to the field and aimed several blows at Mr Owen's head. The crowd were upset about Crewe's persistent use of the offside trap. Huddersfield won 1-0.

## Cricket

From John Wood

When, two hours later, Richards was dismissed, there were two magnificent strokes off Mallett, straight drives that were first and second bounce for four, and West looked far from finished. There was no fault to be found in Richards's innings, except when, late in a terrific few minutes before lunch, he began to lose his wicket times by Thomson. His stroke play was sparkling as well as sound, destructive as well as defensive. Two shots that took him to the boundary were more than 20 feet off the ground; they laid the crowd on their feet and Greg Chappell, at slip, on his knees, wondering what to do next.

In the event Lillee did it for

**Test scorecard**

AUSTRALIA: First innings, 418 (J. R. Reid capt.) 60.0 overs; V. A. Marks 89, G. Doggie 70.

Second Innings

J. R. Reid capt., S. Lloyd, B. Gibbs	59
A. Turner, P. Hughes, D. Gibson	66
M. Marshall, run out	23
R. W. Burge, J. C. White	23
N. W. Chappell, S. Murray & Hotie	1
B. Edwards	0
A. Hodge, C. Murray, B. Gibbs	0
Extras (lb 7, T 6, N.B. 11)	28
Total (7 wickets down) .. 346	

V. A. Marks 89, J. C. Coolidge, J. R. Thompson, D. N. Lillee 70.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-253, 3-261, 4-302, 5-318, 6-318, 7-318.

HOWLING: Roberts	4	0	2	0
Reid	0	0	2	0
Doggie	1	0	2	0
Lillee	1	0	2	0
Gibbs	2	5	4	0
Fredericks	1	0	2	0

**By Norman Fox**

[illegible]

Marbella, Jan 27

The committee set up to investigate the question of players wearing kit carrying brand names for advertising is expected to report its findings in a few days. A decision on an application from the Israeli Football Federation for the Israel Football Association has been postponed. —Reuter.

Sponsorship plans for the forthcoming international football championships are likely to be announced next week. The Football Association of the United States, headed by Dr. Robert Croker, the secretary of the Professional Football Association, from a UEFA meeting in London.

Ladbrokes, the bookmaking firm who saved the Grand National when the horse was killed, has been asked to provide a person which has been a player since the 1882-84 season. No Ladbrokes representative would comment last night.

him by almost immen-  
ing Richards. I like

been easily disposed of. Mallett, who  
 Kallikharan was 51. When he came  
 19 he had been dropped for a second  
 time. The top of Greg Chapman's  
 Mallett landed him a blow on the  
 though, well caught at backswinger  
 square leg by Redpath, standing  
 30 yards from the bat. Kallikharan  
 first two swings, missing the first  
 another ball to lift at Murray  
 which meant a chance to Murray  
 of the kind he never misses. Boyce  
 was swinging well through the last  
 55 minutes, with a few good  
 boundary off Mallett for every  
 time he was beaten by Thomson.  
 Boyce, so far, has hit seven four  
 and a five, and has run out at  
 then Lloyd, it was all of only  
 academic interest.

This morning, just before An-  
 nals declared, Gibbs equalled  
 Truman's 100 in Test cricket, and  
 because of the West Indian  
 fielders, but in spite of them. Holder  
 not dropped a simple  
 catch at deep square leg. The  
 given but he was not  
 would also have taken the one that  
 he is looking for. If Treanman  
 been let down by his fielders a  
 Gibbs would have made that  
 would be one more match than  
 there is to his phrase book.

In Melbourne within the next  
 week Glabe, all being well, will  
 play in the first Test. The  
 of. Of these, the one currently  
 playing, who seems most likely to  
 get anywhere near it is Under-  
 Gibbs, who is in charge of the  
 taken 203 Test wickets when it  
 last English season ended. Little  
 racing engines, Thomson, Robert  
 and Little may be expected to  
 take themselves out in too short  
 a time.

## Rugby Union

By John Dawzie



Steele . . . back after injury

the committee have yet got it right. Bringing in Cranley while at the same time dropping Telfer, seems particularly unfortunate for both Hawick centres have always tended to play better with Telfer calling the shots. Telfer, however, apart from the fact that he has again been injured since the French match, no longer produces his club form in international.

As he was going out, a more appropriate selection, as either stand-off half or centre, would have been David Bell (Watsonians), who lost his place through injury in New Zealand. Bell was in excellent form in Saturday's inter-city championship as was his fellow Edinburgh centre, Ien Forsyth (Stewart's Melville F.C.), who won



**tamental** in King's College, London, Wednesday night.

stand-off Phillips took a 46-yard penalty for them after five minutes. He was concerned in all three goals. After 10 minutes Griffiths dropped a goal from a broken play near King's posts, and it was Phillips who kicked the ball over the crossbar. The culmination of some intensive Westminister pressure, with Ashbridge and Collins being stopped by the referee.

King's seemed to be in for hiding around about this time, as McFarland, who scored 15 points for his school, missed a long run round, missed a penalty they would have welcomed. But just after the interval he did kick a goal for his side. McFarland King's moved suddenly into their foreground. The score was 6-3 at half-time.

There were two horses in the race between the two schools. McFarland then, narrowly missed

By Peter Marson

Charing Cross's gallantry had been something to be wondered at, yet they had lost their stand-off half. Regan, who injured a foot after being mistreated in the second round, was the best of the two. Stradun, who lost the better part of the pressure on the remaining seven forwards was immense.

But, inevitably, there was a price to pay, and in their anxiety Charing Cross made a bandful of mistakes. The forwards who were able to profit, and pull away from the side, were the ones who were not. St. Mary's fielded, about half the side, that had been defeated by Westminster in last year's Bachelors' Cup. The forwards were, for whom was Ralston, promising stand-off half now with Rosslyn Park. Wilson, who is a capable place kicker was not in his best form, and only two of the backs goals out of three, although he dropped an excellent goal and

## Orienteering

By Neil Allen

When the plane was about 100 miles from Bahrain, Meadows ordered the pilot to alter a better line to scratch than the one that was being followed at the time. When Mr Meadows is following his favourite sport, steeplechasing, up a mountain side, he might take a short-cut to a safe and easy route, as at worst next February 9, he will be flying to Bahrain at 1,000 miles a minute.

Orientseeing is a cross-country running plus the vital test of having the pilot's prerogative to follow known routes between isolated control points by skilful use of map and compass. Naturally Mr Meadows, who is 16-year-old, is a member of the British team, like a number of the British team, like a number of which calls for navigation under extreme pressure.

John Disley, a former Olympian, is the sports editor of the *Telegraph* and is a keen steeplechaser and a member of the sports council.

By John Hennessy

and also produced "furious" action. The first of these was the fact that the match could be placed first by a majority of judges yet still be beaten by Y overall—indeed the winner need not be placed first by any judge.

I did not, in my article, nearly dissent from the majority opinion method (though, if pure devil would be prepared to run down the advocate and claim to say, for instance, that the first and second places represent a more impressive performance than the first three places and the fourth place. The fact that the majority method that there was a glaring anomaly to use Mr Richardson's phrase, the collation of two separate sections of a competition when couples who finish in front of the other couples both times actually placed behind them.

It is on this aspect of the subject that Mr Richardson plays in his article. He says, "I think he likes my thinking to" says that if England lead Australia's first innings and eventually lose they can claim a draw for having won the first half of the match. The cricket analogy is apt, as are only too ready to believe it is how is it that the side who have won the first half of the match is judged to have lost the match?

Mr Richardson accepts the "perhaps a true anomaly lies in the fact that the majority is ahead of the British press despite the fact that a majority of judges would have reversed the order. Unfortunately attempting

**By Rex Bellamy**  
**Sausch Baglets Come**

produced a thrilling spectacle.

卷之四

officials, was an angel. Per-  
he knew that the referee

Trinidad, 365 (T. Cuffy, 62-5000, Ford 4 for 87). March down

BRITAIN 2, (Results: T. Zuparich  
J. Lloyd, 6-5, 6-4: C. Molloy

1

100

n. thin ice

100



## Why there should be more for everyone in comprehensives

**Margaret Maden**  
© Times Newspapers Ltd.

100











## Thrace against time: Putting the record straight

Thrace has had a bad press, on the whole, over the centuries. Herodotus clearly regarded it as *Ulysses Thracia* (he added that you could not get beyond it as the farther reaches were infested by bees), and his view seems to have been the general one. Orpheus came from Thrace, and Odysseus stopped there on the way home, and was presented with some wine so strong that it could be repeatedly diluted without impairing the flavour, which suggests that it must have been rhenish, because you could dilute that fifth with a mixture of methylated spirit and high octane aviation fuel without its disgusting the drinker's taste. And that is about all I have known about Thrace until now.

But now I have been to the British Museum to see the exhibition of Thracian antiquities, and an amazing experience it has been. (Two experiences, actually, as one visit was not enough, so I went back the next day.) Herodotus was wrong. Indeed, he could hardly have been more wrong, for the Thracian treasure even from the period before the Greek influence began to seep in, are of an astonishing richness, beauty and sophistication; how the Thracians got their reputation as the country bumpkins of antiquity I cannot imagine.

The comparison that springs to mind is with the Turekhanum exhibition, though (so far, at any rate) the Thracians, by the mercy of God, are not what they were on that occasion. But the catalogue (exceptionally handsome, efficient and practical) starts memory salivating by the organizers' choice, for the cover, of an illustration so strongly reminiscent of the great gold *lapis-lazuli* mask that closed the Egyptian show that it is positively spooky. It is a grave, found in a tomb of the late fourth century BC, in the form of a woman; the face would have covered the knees. The object is not only feminine, however, but shaped like a sarcophagus, and on top of that it has a bearded extraordinarily similar to some of those among the Egyptian antiquities, and on top of that one side of the face is composed of alternating stripes of gold and silver, making it even more like the Turekhanum mask than you would think possible.

There are other points of comparison, too, chief among them being the emphasis on death. (Herodotus was amazed by the Thracian custom of rejoicing at death and accompanying a funeral with joyous celebrations.) Of course, many of the objects in the exhibition were found in tombs, and thus must have had some ritual purpose connected with burial, but even so there is a remarkable similarity between the attitudes of the two civilizations, both of which believed that the dead had to be accompanied on their journey into the afterworld.

So, at any rate, I could not help feeling as I made the tour of the Thracian riches. Most of the comment so far has concentrated on the gold, and understandably. There is a group of drinking vessels and pithers that take the breath away with their delicate yet vigorous beauty, and a libation dish with five concentric circles of decoration embossed on it—the innermost of acorns, the

Such an astonishing richness of treasures.

How the Thracians got their reputation as country bumpkins of antiquity I cannot imagine.



A gold rhyton, a Thracian drinking vessel, shown in the exhibition.

a tiny pink tongue hanging out and one front paw gesturing like a politician making a speech; it raised an instant smile, so innocent and charming was it, but the smile was as rapidly displaced by the realization that we had no means of telling what the lion's contemporaries felt when they saw it, and no right to assume that they shared our anthropomorphic view of it. For all I knew, it might have inspired awe, terror, worship or outrage, and those who gazed on it when it was newly fashioned might have found our reaction—“Aaah, how sweet!”—quite incomprehensible.

This uncase I felt much more strongly when before the Thracian images, themselves, for that from and wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command told the sculptor well those passions read; but to what those passions might be I could not discern, at least not the attitudes of the civilization of which Turekhanum was a part—and not only the attitudes but the *mores*, organization, relationships—had utterly vanished, and could not be recalled.

And what is so particularly fascinating about the Thracian collection is its enormous, incidentally, containing all but 600 items—is that although the world here conjured up is—let me rate the earlier strata—as remote in time as that of Turekhanum, it is never the less wonderfully accessible. These people, we feel, were Europeans, and though they may have worshipped strange gods, and eaten strange fruits, and followed strange leaders, and known nothing of plastic flowers, sliced Wonderloaf, nodding dogs, Muzak or Colonel Seifert, they were men like us: if you picked them, they would be dead, if you poisoned them, they would die, and the most searching test of all—if you told them a joke, they would laugh.

So, at any rate, I could not help feeling as I made the tour of the Thracian riches. Most of the comment so far has concentrated on the gold, and understandably. There is a group of drinking vessels and pithers that take the breath away with their delicate yet vigorous beauty, and a libation dish with five concentric circles of decoration embossed on it—the innermost of acorns, the

remaining four of negroid heads—and a tiny jug with a “knot” handle decorated with a group of characters; these things are equal to anything found at Mycenae, not excluding the Cup of Nestor itself. The silver, too, is gorgeous almost beyond compare: a massive amphora with handles in the form of snarling lions, a little jug with a thyracian celebration represented on it, some elegant drinking-horns ending in horses' heads.

In addition, I was struck by an extraordinarily powerful helmeted mask with a strongly Mongolian cast (you could easily miss this, incidentally, if you follow the otherwise excellent layout of the showcases, for it is on its own in one of the two unnumbered vitrines), a fascinating pair of golden earrings, and a golden bowl so enormous you could both the baby in it.

But the two items before which I lingered the longest, and returned to most often, summed up, standing as they did at opposite ends of the very wide spectrum of religious, ceremonial, decorative and domestic items in the exhibition, the force and eloquence with which these long dead people speak to us. First was a golden wreath (funeral, not victory, though it is of laurel) made with such delicacy and care that it is almost as if it had been reproduced the growth of the “cut” stems, as well as the veins on the leaves, which themselves are so delicate—no thicker than kitchen foil—that they tremble as in a breeze when anybody walks past the case.

The other, and for me the most moving item in the entire display, is a tiny silver sarcophagus, one of a group of five, and what gives it its special poignant effect is that it has been repaired—not by the archaeologists, but by the original careful owner. A strip of silver has been nailed across the bottom of the inside, running across one edge of the base and a little way up the sides; there are eight pins holding it, and it must have been used for a long time after the repair was made, as the patch has now been smoothed exactly into the shape of the vessel. A spark of recognition jumps the fall of seventeen centuries, and I came out into Great Russell Street convinced that I had met that thrifty Thracian housewife. There was nothing like that after Turekhanum.

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A Law Commission proposal to a working paper on conspiracy and trespass, which would have made squatting without consent a criminal offence, will almost certainly be dropped from the commission's final report, following strong opposition from the Greater London Council and the London borough councils, the National Council for Civil Liberties and the independent law centres working group.

The commission's report is to be submitted to the Lord Chancellor this week, though it is unlikely that it will be ready for publication before the end of February or early March. Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, has said that the Government intends to introduce comprehensive legislation without the need for a conspiracy and trespass laws once it has considered the report.

Squatting has continued to spread rapidly since the Law Commission first proposed two years ago that it should be made a criminal offence “in the unlawful use of property and to fail to leave as soon as reasonably practicable after being ordered by the person entitled to occupation.” There are now an estimated 30,000 squatters in England and Wales, about 25,000 of whom are in London. This compares with more than 1,500 five years ago.

About 12,000 of these squatters have legal agreements with local authorities allowing them to make temporary use on licence of otherwise unusable short-life properties on condition that they leave promptly when the properties are required for rehabilitation or redevelopment. The squatters pay no rent, but pay for rates, gas and electricity and carry out repairs.

This kind of arrangement between responsible squatters and local authorities has been in existence since 1963, continues to grow and is a chance that they might be found alternative accommodation on eviction. Local authorities have a duty (though not a statutory obligation, as some believe) to provide at least temporary accommodation for homeless families, including pregnant

mothers, but not for homeless single people. At one time rehousing became a regular demand of squatters on threat of violent confrontation if their demand was not met. But local authorities have been taking a much tougher attitude to these demands following the public outcry over the GLC “surrender” to the 200 unlawful squatters in Elgin Avenue, Paddington, who were evicted last October after a lengthy occupation which cost the council nearly £100,000 in delays to the redevelopment programme, officials time, and legal costs.

The families among the Elgin Avenue squatters were given permanent council homes, not temporary bed-and-breakfast accommodation. This gave rise to bitter complaints of queue-jumping on the housing waiting list.

Why, when confronted with such problems, are councils opposed to unlawful squatting being made a criminal offence? Both the GLC and the London Boroughs Association

explain that they believe the vast majority of squatters are a symptom of the severe housing shortage in London and that they should not be penalized for a situation for which they are not to blame. The councils say they want possession, not punishment.

The High Court ruled in June last year that a warrant for possession of a property enabled bailiffs to evict anyone in that property, whether named or not. This meant that squatters could not escape eviction by swapping properties with another group of squatters between the serving of the summons and the arrival of the bailiffs.

Councils are still anxious, however, to get new clear-cut civil proceedings to put a stop to the “musical houses” game and to prevent reoccupation after eviction. They suggest that court orders should be granted prohibiting the occupation of a designated property. They also want the existing procedure for regaining possession of an unlawfully occupied property to be speeded up and

made more efficient. At present it can take anything from two to six months to complete the proceedings, they say.

The National Council for Civil Liberties and the independent law centres argue that the introduction of criminal sanctions against squatters could lead to abuse by unscrupulous landlords who wished to evict a lawful tenant.

The police themselves are reluctant to become involved in property disputes where lawful occupation or ownership is so often difficult to prove on the spot. They are already required to intervene where there has been or is likely to be a breach of the peace or where a forcible entry or criminal damage to property can be proved.

The Government is not expressing any direct opinion on the squatters' problem until it has considered the Law Commission's report. But Mr Crossland, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has made it clear in various speeches that he sees the squatting problem as part of the whole housing problem, and therefore one which can only be solved by more homes rather than by penal sanctions.

The British Property Federation, representing some 40,000 private landlords, was once strongly in favour of making squatting a criminal offence, but is no longer sure that advantages of such a change would be worth the cost. It has had almost no complaints from its members about squatters, it says.

The message from all sides seems to be that the authorities have to learn to cope with what has been thought to be a far more threatening problem than it has proved to be. Squatting, for its part, has highlighted the problem of the housing shortage, not only for families but for other categories not previously catered for in the public sector, such as the single women, and has caused many local authorities to be more sensitive about the waste of empty houses.

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Diana Geddes



Squatters clearing up in Elgin Avenue.

## The politics behind Ireland's religious war

More than six years of sectarian strife in Ulster have obscured the part played by secular ideologies in the conflict. The recent denunciation of the Provisional IRA by Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Marxist oriented official Sinn Féin, is a timely reminder of the bitterness among extremists on the Catholic side of the divide. He accused the Provisionals of “ideologically repudiating the Catholic faith and everything destructive and reactionary in Ireland.”

The Ulster problem, and the larger still unresolved Irish question, is about religion—and much more. Fear that Ulster's access to British markets could be threatened by Irish Home Rule was one important factor in Orange agitation before partition. Loyalty to economic self-interest remains an important ingredient in Ulster loyalism.

There has always been a strong political, as well as economic, streak in Northern Irish Protestantism, a garbled descendant of the Glorious Revolution of 1689 and of the American Revolution. To be a Protestant is to believe in, and if necessary fight for, liberty. Earlier this month, the extremist Ulster Defence Association echoed the American Declaration of Independence and of the American Revolution, and Poles by the British Government for failing to guarantee “the natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

The demonology about the

Catholic Church is much more warped politics than distorted theology. Rome is taken to stand for the denial of the liberty which the Protestant holds so dear. In spite of such generalizations, the referendum, which struck out a reference to the special position of the Roman Catholic Church from the southern Irish constitution, the Republic has done nothing to modify the northern Protestants' instinctive feeling that a United Ireland would undermine and demolish liberty. The nationalists' answer to this is that the freedom vaunted by Protestants is the freedom to monopolize power.

But the Protestant attachment to liberty has taken forms other than fear of the opposition to Rome. In the last quarter of the eighteenth century the small town of Belfast, then only the fifth largest in Ireland, was the centre where the most controversial and instinctive of the Irish people's revolutionary ideas found their earliest response.

It was to the educated Presbyterians of the north, often products of Scottish universities where learning was of a higher standard than at Oxford and Cambridge, that the ideas which were to lead to the Irish Revolution were made an appeal. Nonconformists, although of course to a much lesser degree than Catholics, suffered discrimination and were critical of the Anglican establishment and its role in the emigration to the American colonies. Belfast even commemorated the fall of the Bastille.

It was in this then almost entirely Protestant town of Belfast that visitors like the Dublin Protestant Theobald Wolfe Tone could find the most advanced advocacy in Ireland of political rights for both Catholics and Protestants. Belfast was a very tolerant place, where Protestants helped to finance the building of the first Catholic church, which opened in 1784.

Within three generations, the industrial revolution had drawn Catholics from rural Ireland in sufficient numbers to reach the present ratio of one for every two Protestants, and the Protestant workers were beginning to feel the pinch of the jobs. The social and economic basis of today's conflict had been laid.

While revolutions in the English-speaking world still provide ammunition for Protestant revolutionary ideologies, the fact of the matter is that the Irish people's revolutionary ideas have played their part in the mythology of Irish Republicanism.

Wolfe Tone's own conversion to separatism was much more convoluted than the hero worship of him as the father of Irish Republicanism suggests, but the last years of his brief life were devoted to working for a break in the connexion with England through a French invasion of Ireland. The subsequent failure of all his hopes and the death of his wife in 1793 should not be allowed to obscure the fact that his aim was to create a nonsectarian

republic for the whole island. Despite their sectarian instincts, the Provisional IRA and its political wing still feel obliged to genuflect to Tone, whose own great hope was anticlerical, revolutionary France.

Marxist ideology has been a more relevant factor in the present crisis than is often appreciated. It has always been a basic view in the Protestant community that the civil rights campaign of the late 1960s was a front for the IRA. Former gunmen whose last military campaign had ended in utter failure in 1962 had taken on an increasingly Marxist tinge and were involving themselves in political activities like the civil rights movement.

But the real significance of Marxism was the way it helped to tear the IRA apart six years ago. The breakdown of the Provisionals could not stomach a political approach involving the fact of the matter is that the Irish people's revolutionary ideas have played their part in the mythology of Irish Republicanism.

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past record of atrocities, but their ceasefire in Ulster, announced four years ago, indicates a disenchantment with the gun in present circumstances.

One reason for the comparative success of the Provisionals is that their roots are in simple, Catholic Ireland and that they reject atheistic imports. Although the Provisionals are not founding a socialist republic, their reflexes are those of men of the extreme right. Most Dublin politicians are deeply conservative, and many of the three years after the IRA split that Fionna Fial were seen from Czechoslovakia to the Provisionals. Intermittently, Marxists and anti-Marxists have killed each other and Marxists or quasi-Marxists have conducted feuds on both sides of the border. At times it would not have been a travesty to write about such aspects of Ireland in the language of the Spanish Civil War.

Denis Taylor

## “Without your help I don't know what we'd do.”



Dear Salvation Army, here is my gift for your Annual Appeal to help you help those in need. I enclose £... Cheques payable to The Salvation Army. Name... Address...

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The art of diplomacy, as I have hinted before in this column, consists largely of convincing other people's fine food and drink and then offering them some of yours in return. What more natural, then, than that the best-attended diplomatic function yesterday was a party given by a firm offering diplomats wine and strong drink on the cheap? One of the hosts told me that 14 full ambassadors had turned out, and many more junior embassy officials.

It was a launching party for a wine club sponsored by Embassy Magazine, a periodical for diplomats edited by Logan Gower, the chief of the business correspondent of the Sunday Express. The party was held in the House of Lords, and invitations went out in the name of Lord Greenwood, the former Colonial Secretary. Sadly, Greenwood is not well, so guests were greeted instead by the elderly Lord Brockway, who had no apparent connexion with the enterprise.

Tim Bryant, who advises the club on what wines to buy, told me that it already has about 2,000 members, although it has not long been in existence. Membership is restricted to accredited diplomats, who are entitled to get their alcohol duty-free.

A number of other firms are already in the business of supplying diplomats with alcohol refreshment on this basis, but so great is the thirst in London embassies that Bryant is sure there is room for another outlet. The prices charged by the new club are roughly similar to those of existing firms (on average about half the price I and I pay for our drinks) but Bryant claims the wines will be selected with more care.

Foreign diplomats in Britain are allowed to buy as much duty-free liquor as they like, except whisky, of which they

## The Times Diary

### Oiling the wheels of diplomacy

are limited to 48 bottles a year a person. The diplomats' own governments sometimes place restrictions on the practice, though both the Americans and Russians are allowed only to buy drinks produced in their own countries, though the Soviet practice does not apply to their communist allies. Some of the 1989 and of the American Revolution. To be a Protestant is to believe in, and if necessary fight for, liberty. Earlier this month, the extremist Ulster Defence Association echoed the American Declaration of Independence and of the American Revolution, and Poles by the British Government for failing to guarantee “the natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

### Hush-hush

While last week's Radcliffe report recommended a 15-year time-lag before the revelation of Cabinet secrets, Granada Television are planning an authentic recreation of a Cabinet meeting only weeks after it took place. Political journalists will present the arguments which, according to their research, individual ministers made at the meeting which was on a topic of great public controversy. There is no question, though, of the reporters trying to impersonate the ministers.

This innovation in communication has been greeted guardedly by Cabinet ministers, who have been approached in advance and asked for their

views. One minister is said to be implacably hostile to the whole project and his opposition could still cause its cancellation.

For this reason, fearing an eventual veto by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Granada have prepared the programme under conditions of great secrecy. Although the filming took place last Sunday, they are unwilling to say which reporters are playing which part. It is known, however, that Adam Raphael of *The Guardian*

Lobby correspondents have known about the programme for some time but have not written about it, because those taking part have been pledged to secrecy. Part of the reason for their ignoring this unusual condition was no doubt because, if official objections had prevented the making of the programme, they would not have received their fee for taking part. Now that the film has been made they will be paid, even if official objections finally kill the programme.

### Blessed union

The bishop and the trade union leader took over yesterday where the actress and the parson left off last week. That, at any rate, was the Reverend Joseph McCulloch introduced the luncheon dialogue at his church, St Mary-le-Bow, between the Bishop of Stepney, Trevor Huddleston, and Jack Jones of

the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The bishop said the unions did not take enough constructive initiatives. Jones said they did, but newspapers did not report them. The bishop said the unions should encourage people to look for something more fulfilling than the weekly wage packet, and Jones suggested shorter hours and more free time to develop understanding of the classics and the arts. “I've never really had the chance to appreciate music, which is denied to most working men and women,” he said. Huddleston challenged Jones to say that people in this country were quite rich enough, compared with to the third world. Jones said people were already making sacrifices which might lead to greater things, and that for a country in as rich an environment as this, it was the case for redistribution.

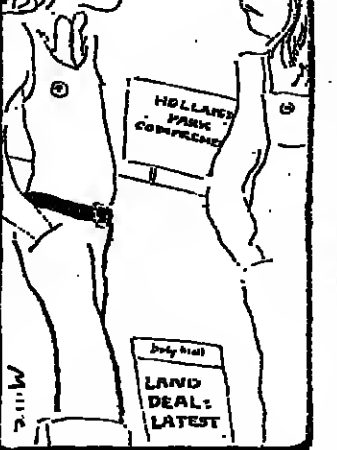
As the audience filed out, McCulloch announced that next week his wife would be talking to a paediatrician, which will make the bridging introduction even more ticklish.

### Pioneer

Bill Fox is something of a pioneer, having been one of the first “lunatics” to ride a motorbike, which he went on doing until he was 80. Sixty years ago, he flew jerkily to Paris in a small open passenger plane.

On Monday evening, at Benchi's Restaurant in Soho, he talked about his part in helping John Logie Baird to launch television on an unsuspecting and largely sceptical world. Fox, an ex-journalist of 83, joined members of the Royal Television Society in the building where, 50 years ago, Baird first demonstrated his “television” to the Royal Institution.

Baird's role in the discovery of television is disputed. Some



say he created the legend about himself through publicity. “I tried,” said Fox, “to keep him on a straight and sensible track over publicity. It was like trying to drive a car at high speed over an ice rink. He was very difficult to control and very determined.”

His own image was used on the first trans-Atlantic transmission but until Tuesday he had never seen himself on television.

### Smashing

Joseph Cheng and his friends celebrated the advent of the Chinese New Year by smashing up a selection of poles, planks, thermite blocks and roof tiles. They vigorously destructive efforts were warmly received by an

appreciative and predominantly Chinese young audience, who packed the Seymour Hall for Cheng's *kung fu* demonstration on Monday night.

The woman who announced the programme said that *kung fu* had been used for fighting wars but was now practised solely for keeping fit and self-defence. In the item which followed a muscular Negro showed how you could defend yourself without lifting a finger. He let his opponent break through thick pieces of wood against his braced body.

Then exponents of the northern style, *wu shu kwan*, showed how they could break things with their bare hands, feet, forearms and elbows. “For our style you need cardiovascular endurance and mental stamina,” said the tutor, as a pupil kicked a roof-tile apart in mid-air. Another leapt over six men and broke a block of wood with a flying kick.

As a finale Cheng beat off two attackers with one hand in his pocket, and then saw off seven of his pupils single-handed. Until you have had years of it, he said, it would be wise to be careful about complaining in Chinese restaurants. The chef might take a flying leap over the table and dispatch you with his foot, or send a waiter to kick the roof off your house.

A Press Association report of the proposed meeting of revolutionary groups in Ireland noted that the last time a similar get-together was planned, some delegates were turned away at British ports. “It's time, though,” the report said, “they will be advised to turn up in an ordinary terraced house. That should be all right.”

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## PROCEDURAL VETO

reactions to the veto of the proposed resolution on the East-West problem included a question as to whether the veto itself should be at face value. The delegate said his veto was not a regretful puzzle, but a clear statement of the Jordanian at the United States and a rare opportunity to the road to a revivification. Yet neither Jordan can be under illusion about the East-West peace process. The resolutions, unless they are accepted by a Both Egypt and Jordan, enough touch the essential American resolution is not but to the problem it implies. The Security Council is asked for and Syria as the price of the East-West peace. The United Nations, on the Golan, provided Syria with a success because for the time the Palestine Organization was addressed the Security Arab state could and the PLO could use the proffered at in private most Arabs admitted to.

## NGHAM SETS UP SHOP

irmingham the West-County Council Bill is seriously. It seeks the country or the it embraces to set a strange variety of ades, and has the of having been com- basis of a compre- sive through the es. Nobody expects it will become law shed a good many nate provisions: as n Oakes said in Commons debate on rating, when private amply aim for the inept has decide, ounters really want- use, it must decide should have. Several is also bringing d to take advantage ument's faith in mpetition between private enterprise—a ined even among the ous of a policy of mies. n obvious incongruity uell seeking powers usiness (on borrowed a flout, souvenir travel agent or at the same time forced to trim the services that only a

## BP'S NEW MAN FOR NEW TASKS

ethven, the newly irector General of ation of British In- cepted one of the t jobs in Britain re- in the main, be his e next few months 'rganization into new were publicly char- this month by the mities of inquiry ast May, when he cepted by members governing council. pheres Mr Methven o be seeking to re- reconcilable. He d, for example, to oth private and pub- industry are effi- financially healthy, people believe that of the activities of ultate against the of the former. He p loudly and cheer- ess, without endur- ture of the hundreds of small businesses Britain today. He "the extension of ip of industry" at Government partici- business affairs is

## for Wales

holas Edwards, Con- for Pembroke, stituent, Mr David lific writer of letters t it would be inter- e if he holds the number published in d. On this occasion e makes two asser- hic argument, which wed to stand without first, that Wales's is as a producer of d that her economic t look fundamentally e English dominated t Westminster, not prices for those fam- ily is not true. Wales, and oil and, if it is, Celtic Sea, it may be land than it is. to e total of Welsh, tuction only 8.5 per cent, making the Welsh coal field as one of the most east profitable in the

doubts about the usefulness, and especially the timing, of the procedure adopted. It was fairly clear from the start that any resolution acceptable to Syria and the PLO would be unacceptable to the United States. The Syrians may even have relished the prospect of an American veto, hoping that this would give the lie to their radical Arab critics who accuse them of knuckling under to imperialist and Zionist pressure, and hoping perhaps also to exert further pressure themselves on the United States by demonstrating its isolation. It was probably this second consideration, rather than any genuine hope of avoiding the veto, that led them to allow the non-aligned states to water down their original proposals, thus making it possible for states such as France and Japan to support the resolution and for Britain and Italy to abstain. The result was a draft which in a sense fell between two stools, being acceptable neither to the more radical Arabs nor to the Americans. But this at least ended the Syrian delegate's stigmatizing the tyrant minority of one, which has obstructed the adoption of such a fair and balanced resolution. The Syrian press will be able to embroider this theme *ad nauseam* in the next few days—and that, perhaps, is all that President Assad really hoped for. Syria's apparent success in ending the fighting in Lebanon must, if it lasts, also accord Arabist Assad a welcome incre-

## conditions encourage thrift and efficiency

Even Birmingham does not really propose to go into pharmacy or hotel management in a big way. The main pressure for change is in the field of construction, where many councils have direct labour organizations and would like them to be allowed to take on work outside their areas and even from private developers. It is here that the problems of fair competition with an already struggling industry would be most acute. They are already acute, in fact, whenever private contractors seek work from a council that runs a direct labour organization. Such cases have already indicated defects in accounting and tendering practices which require a thorough overhaul before there should be any question of extending the role of direct labour. As with other proposals for adding to the trading powers of councils, a strong case for the change needs to be made on its own merits, and fair and open competition must be securely guaranteed.

## mittee of inquiry, while helpful, are by no means the complete answer to his problems

The guidelines under which Mr Methven will work have been drawn up at a time when the CBI is ten years old. The organization came into being in 1965 through a merger of the Federation of British Industries, the British Employers' Confederation and the National Association of British Manufacturers. The hope was that it would enable British industry to speak "with a single voice". Under the leadership initially of Mr John Davies and more recently of Sir Campbell Adamson, the CBI has become pre-eminent among those representing business interests, although it has undoubtedly failed in its principal task. Perhaps this was inevitable. The role played by the Trades Union Congress is much more clear cut than that of its depositee number. It is precisely because the TUC has become such a power in the land that there is an urgent need to strengthen the CBI, thus providing a counter-balance. Mr Methven will almost certainly conclude, when he has had time to settle into his chair, that the suggestions tendered by the com-

## slavishly imposed through the Welsh Office

Figures for total Welsh agricultural production are not available in a comparable form, but I am told by the Farmers' Union of Wales that the agricultural production represents about 4.5 per cent of Welsh gross domestic product. Comparatively little of the land is of prime quality and the Welsh hill farmers are heavily dependent upon the system of hill grants, just as the milk producers rely upon the United Kingdom marketing arrangements. The value of water as a commodity is difficult to quantify, particularly as the main river systems cross the border, but whatever system of charges might be proposed it is hard to believe that it would so transform the situation that commodities would become the main strength of the Welsh economy. The reality is that Wales is overwhelmingly dependent upon manufacturing industry and structure whatever commodity price structure was introduced. Mr Green's second assertion is that planning principles based upon urban English criteria have been

## Fees for foreign students

From Lord Gladwyn  
Sir, Since I was the promoter of the recent debate on overseas students' fees in which you comment in your leader of January 23, perhaps you would allow me to make three simple points:  
(a) In your leader you do not refer to the money which some 53,000 overseas students spend in this country—say about £75 million—all of which helps to rectify our unfavourable balance of payments and must therefore presumably be set off against what the Government claim to be the cost of their education in the United Kingdom.  
(b) The Government's estimate of this cost (£50-£100 million) cannot possibly be justified. It seems that they include the salaries of all the professors and teachers employed at the universities and colleges. I know not what. But if there were no overseas students, this money would not be saved; the professors would not be dismissed; the buildings would not fall into decay. By far the greater part of this considerable sum, in other words, would not be "saved". We should only be cutting off our nose to spite our face.  
(c) The Government—and you—severely state it is irresponsible to propose continued "subsidies" to overseas students without indicating whence the money would come. I made the suggestion in the debate that the fees of all "qualified" students (say £25 million) might be directly met out of the general budget of the ODM, pruned of some of its more dubious items. Why not? No "aid" could be better expended. Even Lord Crowsley-Hunt did not appear to dismiss this possibility altogether.  
Yours faithfully,  
GLADWYN,  
62 Whitehall Court, SW1,  
January 26.

## From Sir Philip Rogers

Sir, I was disturbed to read of Government's recommendation that fees to be paid by overseas students should be reduced to "subsidies" for students. May I urge that they give further thought to the full implications of this proposal? Naturally all possible economies must be introduced in every side of our expenditure, but are we correct in following the present trend of cutting down everything except purely financial lines, other aspects must surely be borne in mind. I was a businessman in West and East Africa for many years and also had the privilege of serving in the Legislative Council (Parliament) in over Nigeria and Kenya, perhaps I may therefore put forward a point of view in regard to students from Africa.

Africans of course have their own universities of which they are justly proud, but it is fair to say that the present trend of cutting down a reputation which is quite unique, an African who can gain admission is greatly envied. It is true that some African countries are nationally wealthy and can offer the financial means to support their own education. Not all however, agree that their resources should be spent on a handful of individuals out of many millions who are certainly far from well off. The difficulties of finance for these students is not a easy one and the proposed increase in fees could well place their future entry into our universities in serious jeopardy and, worse still, generate a feeling, however wrong it may be, that the reason for the discrimination goes beyond the purely financial one.

There is another side to this matter and one of equal importance, the standing of Britain and its influence in these countries. In years now long passed our countrymen were proud to have won the trust and affection of Africans. In the Nigeria independence celebrations the Prime Minister thanked the British officers for their work "First as masters, then as leaders, and finally as partners, but always as friends".

The feelings behind this generous tribute have become dimmed with the passage of time and the loss of a new generation, and one of the main contacts with our country is now through these students. When they come to Britain they will find that the universities of this country are ill founded. They will find that they are accepted, not in a manner of false heartiness, but as ordinary people. They will find that there is no discrimination against them, and they will find that our police are a force to be respected and not feared. These, and many similar ones, are I am sure, the impressions they will carry back to their own countries, and can put a price on goodwill, surely it is not too much for us to pay?  
Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP ROGERS,  
Brisland,  
Newick, Sussex,  
January 26.

## Engaged

From Mrs Annet Scott  
Sir, I am perhaps uniquely qualified to recommend the revival of the old English word "amoret", defined as the object of a knight's affection (*Shakespeare's Oxford English Dictionary*). Yours faithfully,  
ANNET SCOTT,  
Milton,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Reading.

From Mrs Savitri Choudhary  
Sir, I was interested in the letter "Engaged" in *The Times*, January 24.

We Hindus in the Punjab, India, call the fiancé or fiancée, "Mangestari" which simply means the engaged one. I am now old enough to be a grandmother and have lived in this great country for many years. If I had my time over again, I would like to be called "chosen partner" and not by the cold word fiancée. Yours sincerely,  
SAVITRI CHOUHARY,  
174 Clayhill Road,  
Essex.

## Compensation for ante-natal injury

From the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury  
Sir, The Congenital Disabilities (Civil Liability) Bill, which was introduced by Mr Ray Carter, MP, on December 17 last, is due to have its second reading in the House of Commons on February 6.  
As the terms of reference of this Royal Commission include compensation for ante-natal injury, I think it right to state that my colleagues and I have misgivings about the Bill, which we have made clear to ministers.  
It appears from paragraphs 2-6 of the Law Commission report, on which the Bill is based, that the Law Commission considered it to be prejudicial to the much wider issue of social policy with which the Royal Commission's report will be concerned, but only to establish the action of tort as applicable to ante-natal injuries in the meantime. It is important that this limitation should be accepted and recognized in Parliament.  
Parliament should also be made aware of the special objections which have been and have been urged against relying on the operation of the tort action in the field of ante-natal injuries:  
i. According to the expert evidence which we have received it is only in the rarest of cases that even the physical cause of a congenital abnormality can be ascertained, and even if it is ascertainable the plaintiff in an action of tort would still have to prove that the deformity was caused by fault,

## Labour aid for African liberation movement

From Mrs Judith Hart, Labour MP for Larnark  
Sir, One of your correspondents asked last week, discussing the decision to send money to Southern African liberation movements, when the Labour Party will stand up and dissociate themselves from the support of violence. But the situation in Southern Africa is not a simplistic choice between peaceful or violent change. The former has been essentially denied by the regime in South Africa and even when some other regimes in the area have made moves in this direction it has largely originated as a result of the growing strength of the liberation movements. We cannot equate the violence of violence in struggling to be free with that of their oppressors. We did not do so in France during the last war and we should not do so now.  
The Labour Party has put the position quite clearly in its Party Programme, 1973, "Violence is already used by the minority regimes in Southern Africa in order to preserve their position of power. In common with the Lusaka Manifesto, Labour does not wish to see an extension of violence in Southern Africa but we believe that

## Battle of the River Plate

From Admiral Sir Charles Woodhouse  
Sir, In "Distant War" the second episode of the television series *The World at War*, a comment was made that the battle of the River Plate was a bluff rather than a victory won by bluff rather than by gun power. I thought it my duty to protest to Thames Television because the men who did the fighting which drove the Graf Spee to her doom off Montevideo, much resented the greater share of the success achieved being wrongly given to those who practised deception.  
Thames Television attached copies of our correspondence to the script of the film which has been deposited in the Imperial War Museum, but the comment appeared again when the film was recently repeated.  
I own present misgivings have largely originated from German sources, to defend the reputations of my fellow seamen.  
On reaching the shelter of Montevideo, Langsdorff, the Captain of the Graf Spee, asked for fourteen days to repair the damage, straightforwardly inflicted on his ship by

## The Donatello Relief

From Mr Denis Mahon  
Sir, May one of the many subscribers inquire whether the Minister for the Arts has made some public pronouncement which has ended us on the subject of the appeal for the acquisition of the Donatello relief, and if not, whether he will now do so? Mr Hugh Jenkins's department, which is after all charged with direct responsibility for the Victoria and Albert Museum, must have a copy of last year's progress report by the Director (referred to in *The Times*) which stated that only £25,000 of the purchase price of £175,000 remained to be found.  
In this connection an all-party motion was put down in the House of Commons on January 22, making a positive suggestion for which

## Chiropody for pensioners

From Mr G. C. Jenkins  
Sir, With reference to Dr Godfrey's letter (January 17), the only course of training as a chiropodist recognized for state registration which is a necessary condition of employment in the National Health Service is this society's three year full-time course. The modern fully trained chiropodist is a specialist capable of providing a full comprehensive foot health service for all conditions within this particular field. In many cases patients are suffering from other medical or surgical conditions and the profession has long recognized that on average half hourly appointments are necessary to provide adequate chiropodial treatment. Dr Godfrey's references to cases which he dealt with in a matter of 5-10 minutes suggests that these are cases which do not require the expert attention of a state registered chiropodist, but cases of simple foot care such as an ordinary fit adult can undertake for himself which should not necessarily be the concern of the NHS, whose chiropodial services should be provided on the basis of medical need, not on arbitrary age groups.  
Voluntary organizations providing chiropody services which are in receipt of a direct grant from area

## Soviet Union and Mrs Thatcher

From Lord Chelwood  
Sir, Of all members of Her Majesty's Government, the Secretary of State for Defence has no business playing party games. Mrs Thatcher's observations on Russia's military strength were neither ill-timed nor provocative. They were exactly in line with Mr Mason's own warning in last year's Defence Review: "In parallel with their stated commitment to detente the Warsaw Pact countries maintain forces on the mainland of Europe which are increasing in strength and capability, and appear far larger than could be necessary for defensive purposes. They are composed, equipped and deployed in a manner which would enable them in moderate take offensive operations at relatively short notice."  
What has happened since last March to convert such a statement of fact into an indiscreet? No "confidence-building measures" have yet resulted either from the SALT or the MBFR talks. Helsinki produced little more than pious hopes about so-called detente. Mr Mason has proved a sufficient realist to stake his future on maintaining an effective British contribution to NATO, and brave enough to face bitter condemnation from his left wing colleagues for taking this stand. Is it to placate them that he indulges in such irresponsible statements? Mrs Thatcher, instead of welcoming her forthright statement in support of all he has fought for?  
Yours sincerely,  
CHELWOOD,  
House of Lords,  
January 27.

## The British Library

From the Chief Executive of the British Library Board  
Sir, I am glad that Mr Derwent May in his letter (January 20) drew attention to the architectural and spatial qualities of the famous "dome shaped" reading room in Bloomsbury. He may rest assured that the British Library Board and the architect have much in mind the need to profit from past experience when designing the new building at Somers Town.  
However, the concept of a circular room has had to be abandoned because the technical difficulties and expense are too great for this configuration to be used as a basis for the greatly improved services to be provided for a substantially larger number of readers to the new building.  
Nevertheless, many of the qualities Mr May values will be incorporated into the design. For example the new reading rooms will have a height needed to ensure serenity for the reader sharing a room with many others; will provide natural daylight from above; and will, by terracing, provide a congenial and efficient disposition of readers' places and the facilities they require.  
Yours faithfully,  
H. T. HOOKWAY, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive,  
The British Library Board,  
Store Street, WC1,  
January 23.

## Children at risk

From Mr Robert Davies  
Sir, Dr Ma Kellmer Pringle (January 22) makes an interesting point that the government should consider making the health of a family allowances dependent on a regular health check for children.  
Although she answers the main objections to such a system, which might be to reduce the very real problem of child abuse, the proposal contains a fundamental weakness. As a non means tested benefit, the family allowance has the highest take-up rate and its withdrawal as a sanction against refusal to present a child for a health check could lead to a lower take-up, especially by those families who abuse young children.  
If reliance was placed on this device, there is a risk that family incomes of the most in need would be reduced and the problem it seeks to overcome would remain hidden.  
Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT DAVIES,  
35 Argyle Road,  
Kensington, W8.

## Regular attendance

From the General Secretary of the Labour Party  
Sir, Your Local Government Correspondent (January 26) reported that the Prime Minister addressed the Labour Party Local Government Conference on Saturday "for the first time for several years". This is of course incorrect. Mr Wilson addressed the conference in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1976.  
It has not always been the practice for the Leader to address the conference, but the Prime Minister himself said on Saturday "I rarely miss the opportunity to attend the local government conference".  
The fact that he has attended four of the last five, always with a strong ministerial team, is of course an indication of the great importance that the Labour Party attaches to local government.  
Yours faithfully,  
RON HAYWARD,  
Transport House,  
Smith Square, SW1,  
January 26.

## Top potatoes

From Mr Norman Kirkby  
Sir, Please thank Roy Hay for his "tips from the Top". You dig a 12in trench. Put in some manure. Then put in 2 sheets of *The Times*, your seed potatoes, some soil, some general fertilizer, cover them up. Hey Presto! Earlier Earlies in abundance. After 2 years now. We don't know whether the leader page does the best or not, but it seems that Bernard Levin—or the Editor—or that Square fellow with the Rectangular Allotment do better than most.  
Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN R. KIRKBY,  
Lyndale,  
Mease Road,  
Hale, Cheshire, Warrilow,  
January 16.







DR J. R. JONES  
Betterment of  
Hongkong

each to  
the  
payment  
page 19

John Methven

# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

**NCR**  
Computers & Terminals  
NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1

## John Methven to take top CBI job from Campbell Adamson



John Methven, the Director of Fair Trading, is to take over the top job from Campbell Adamson, the Director of the British Industrial Confederation (CBI), it was announced yesterday.

Mr Methven, who was named in *The Times* as the likely successor to Mr Adamson, is a well-known figure in the business world. He has been a member of the CBI since 1973 and has held various positions within the organization, including Chairman of the Fair Trading Committee and Chairman of the CBI's Finance Committee.

Mr Adamson, who has been Director of the CBI since 1973, is to remain in his post until the end of the year. He is expected to continue to work closely with Mr Methven during the transition period.

## Equity Bank decision likely to be put off again

After a further meeting yesterday of the working party on the proposed Equity Bank, it was decided that the decision on whether to proceed with the bank will be postponed until the summer of 1976.

The working party, which was set up by the Government to consider the proposal for a new bank to provide finance for small and medium-sized businesses, met yesterday for the first time since its formation in December 1975.

The bank is intended to be a public corporation, with the Government holding a majority of the shares. It is expected to have a capital of £100 million and to be able to raise a further £100 million from the public.

## Government tightens rescue rules

By Maurice Corina  
Industrial Editor

After the state rescue of Chrysler UK, the Government has decided to tighten the rules governing the rescue of companies in financial difficulty.

The new rules, which are being introduced by the Department of Industry, will require companies to provide more detailed information about their financial position before they can be considered for a rescue.

The rules also require companies to provide a detailed plan for their future operations, including details of their management and their financial resources.

The Government is expected to announce the new rules in the next few days.

## Oil list agreed yet strain package

There was likely to be many months of strain during the six months which would be required to bring the oil price down to the level of the 1973-74 average, it was estimated yesterday.

The estimate was made by the Oil Price Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the oil market and for recommending measures to stabilize oil prices.

The committee's report, which was published yesterday, stated that the oil price would need to fall by about 10 per cent to reach the 1973-74 level.

## Petrol will escape price pact curbs

By Ronald Emley

It now seems certain that the retail price of petrol will not be included in the forthcoming code of voluntary price restraint.

The code, which is being developed by the Retail Prices Committee, is intended to help to stabilize prices for a range of goods and services.

The committee has decided that petrol should be excluded from the code because its price is determined by the international oil market.

## EEC lends £85m for British steel plants

By Our Financial Staff

Three loans totalling £85m are being made by the European Economic Community to finance steel plant developments in the United Kingdom.

The loans, which are being made by the EEC's Development Bank, will be used to finance the construction of three new steel plants in the UK.

The plants are expected to be completed by the end of 1976 and will have a combined capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum.

## BSC to cut 1,500 jobs in Scots mills by April

The British Steel Corporation is to cut 1,500 jobs in its Scottish mills by April, it was announced yesterday.

The cuts are part of a programme of rationalization which the BSC is undertaking in order to reduce its costs and improve its efficiency.

The jobs to be cut are mainly in the areas of production and administration. The BSC is expected to announce the details of the cuts in the next few days.

## Oil put off Abu Dhabi meeting

By Roger Violevoe

The meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled for Abu Dhabi at the weekend has been postponed.

The postponement is due to the fact that the OPEC members have not yet agreed on a date for the meeting.

The meeting is expected to be held in the next few months.

## Triang six-month loss at £548,000 despite state aid

By Our Industrial Editor

Triang, the toy and model-making company, has reported a six-month loss of £548,000, despite the fact that it has received state aid.

The loss was reported in the company's annual accounts, which were published yesterday.

The company's management has said that the loss was due to a combination of factors, including a decline in sales and an increase in costs.

## Tanker recession poses threat to underwriters

By Our Insurance Correspondent

Marine insurance underwriters are facing a serious threat from the tanker recession, it was warned yesterday.

The recession, which has led to a sharp decline in the number of tankers being built, is expected to lead to a shortage of tankers in the future.

This shortage is expected to lead to a decline in the demand for marine insurance, which will in turn lead to a decline in the profits of underwriters.

## Chrysler stops wages as foremen continue sit-in

By Clifford Webb

Eight hundred Chrysler foremen and supervisors yesterday voted to continue a sit-in at the company's Midland plant.

The sit-in, which began on Monday, is a protest against the company's decision to stop wage increases for its workers.

The company has said that it is unable to pay the requested wage increases because of its financial difficulties.

## Import and wage controls imposed by New Zealand

Wellington, Jan 27.—New Zealand has introduced import and wage controls to curb demand for overseas goods and reduce the trade deficit and the inflation rate.

The controls, which are being introduced by the Government, will require importers to obtain licenses for a range of goods.

The wage controls will require employers to obtain licenses for a range of jobs.

## Ford adviser gives warning of new economic crisis

From Frank Vogt  
Washington, Jan 27

Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, warned Congress yesterday that another economic crisis would result unless an immediate effort was made to reduce the budget deficit.

Mr Greenspan said that the current year's estimated deficit of \$76,000m (about £28,000m) could "throw us back into a severe recession in 1977 and 1978".

## Car men win status fight

Cowley engine tuners have succeeded in their long battle for reclassification as skilled workers.

The tuners, who have been classified as unskilled workers, have won a victory in a long-running dispute with the Leyland car assembly plant.

The plant has agreed to pay the tuners a higher wage and to provide them with better working conditions.

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## markets moved

7p to 195p	Oil	8p to 134p	Bank
5p to 133p	Prop & Rev	5p to 132p	buys
5p to 61p	Sidlaw Ind	5p to 72p	1.67
5p to 415p	Sparrow Ind	5p to 145p	38.25
5p to 150p	Sleep Rock	5p to 210p	83.00
11p to 16p	Ind News	15p to 225p	2.07
3p to 35p	Vaux	5p to 287p	12.75

## THE POUND

... for small denomination bank notes ... as supplied previously by Barclays ... International Ltd. (London) and ... to travellers' cheques and other ... foreign currency business.	
<b>Company Meeting Reports:</b>	
<b>Charterhouse Group</b>	19
<b>Alajedia Inv</b>	17
<b>McCorquodale</b>	18

## Dearer Scotch exports

Members of the Scotch Whisky Association have been advised to increase their export prices by 12 per cent a case.

The export price will go up by 90p to £8.40 a case from today. The new price applies to all exports except to the EEC and the United States.

## MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS LIMITED

The Annual General Meeting of Majedie Investments Limited was held on 27th January 1976 in London. Sir John D. Barlow, Bart., who was Chairman of the Meeting, said:—

The pre-tax profit increased from £233,761 in 1974 to £285,843 in 1975. The maximum permitted dividend of 0.54804p per 10p share has been paid.



## Cost saving promise on shipbuilding by minister

By Colin Ivermee  
Parliamentary Staff

Mr. Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, said yesterday that some £1.5 billion might be saved by the shipbuilding industry if it accepted a large-scale restructuring.

The industry simply cannot afford a large-scale restructuring, he told the Commons Standing Committee considering the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill. The headquarters of British shipbuilders would be in an assessed area, and there would not be a "light London grip".

Similarly, the headquarters of British Aerospace would be outside central London and the Government was looking carefully for a suitable site.

The Government was determined to decentralize industry, Mr. Kaufman said. The two corporations set up to run them. A proper balance would be sought between decentralization and efficiency, with central organizations concentrating on planning. But local decision-making would be kept as close as possible to where work was carried out.

Mr. Kaufman was accepting in principle an amendment tabled by Mr. Heseltine, chief Opposition spokesman for industry, and four other Conservative MPs that "each corporation shall secure the largest degree of decentralization consistent with the proper discharge by the corporation of its duties".

Mr. Heseltine said three specialist warship builders would like to know whether they could expect the continued support of the Government in the development of their expertise. They would also like to know if they could retain selling teams which went overseas to obtain orders, and if they could fulfil such orders without interference from the Government.

The committee approved Clause 2 (general duties of the corporations) by 13 votes to 12.

Referring to a group of amendments proposed by a group of Labour MPs, Mr. Kaufman said that the Secretary of State should be required to consult relevant unions before exercising some of his powers. Mr. Kaufman said they were not acceptable.

He said the general question of consultation would be covered in the course of discussions on the implementation of industrial democracy, which would be held with trade unions. To have such proposals in the Bill would restrict the Secretary of State and invite other organizations to press for similar rights to be consulted.

## UK shipyard orders sink to postwar low

By Peter Hill

Orders valued by British shipyards last year sank to their lowest level since 1945, and there are warnings today that unless the industry wins many new contracts soon some yards will have to lay off men.

The warning comes from the Shipbuilders and Repairers' National Association in a survey of the industry's prospects.

The survey also underlines concern over British shipping companies' tendency to place more new buildings with foreign shipyards.

The shipbuilders, who along with marine engine building companies and ship repairers, will come under state ownership in October, said that if the Government's legislative plans are realized, are pressing the need to encourage British owners to build more at home.

In talks with Department of

## New approach to falsework urged with emphasis on special training

By Malcolm Brown

A rigorous new approach to falsework—temporary supporting structures for construction work—is recommended in a report published yesterday by a government-appointed committee.

The committee, set up after the temporary structure collapse at Lodon Bridge, Reading, in 1972, which killed three workmen and injured 10 others, is highly critical of what it describes as the "pathetically small" effort expended on training. It says that while most falsework is erected by experienced men, there are examples of deplorable standards, particularly among medium and small builders.

"The working there appeared to lack method, system, order, and safety, which are essential for good working conditions and good workmanship", the committee says.

"Indeed, it would not be a great exaggeration to say that we have seen examples of errors in almost every element where errors can occur".

It is estimated, the committee adds, that at any one time there are around 12,000 projects involving falsework, and in 1974 alone there were 20 accidents involving death or injury.

The committee, which started investigations early in 1974, made a detailed examination of the Lodon Bridge collapse of 1972 and the collapse at Birding Road, Luton, Kent, which occurred the previous year. It also paid special attention to a sample of 25 falsework collapses which had been investigated by H.M. Construction Engineering Inspectors of Factories, and examined failures in America, Australia, Germany and France.

Among its recommendations are that falsework should be designed, and in all but minor

projects be approved, by a fully qualified engineer; a temporary works coordinator should be appointed to all sites to ensure that all procedures have been followed; and there should be special training courses.

But it will not be enough simply to attend a course. There should be a system of assessment and certification.

"Some students may fail but this is inevitable if the standards set are those needed to reinforce the training effort the committee recommends that teachers for public sector contracts involving falsework should only be sought from firms who can provide a training record and programme that will ensure that properly trained operatives are employed."

Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Falsework, HMSO, £2.

## Top 'Times' award for Gold Fields



Lord Shawcross (left) chairman of the judges' panel for The Times advertisement awards, hands the Grand Prix to Mr. Gerald Mortimer (centre), deputy chairman and managing director of Consolidated Gold Fields, and Mr. Antony Snow (right), of advertising agents Charles Barker City.

Consolidated Gold Fields, with its advertising agency, Charles Barker City, last night won The Times award for the best advertisement of a company's results in 1975.

Consolidated won the Grand Prix because its annual statement of results—a monochrome advertisement of over half a page—was judged the best among more than 100 entries in clearly conveying information to all concerned.

Mr. Michael Mander, advertising and marketing director of Times Newspapers, remarked on the way that company results advertising, now an improved area of communications, was throwing up "fascinating examples of various approaches to the medium. It had been declared to add to the category prizes a special award this time for Tate & Lyle for creative originality in the use of pairing advertisements on two opposing pages.

Category winners were: Annual results, monochrome or colour half page or above: 1. GKN, 2. Nestlé, 3. National Advertisers; 2. Tate & Lyle, agents KH Advertising; 3. National and Commercial Banking Group, agents Exel Advertising and PR Services. Less than half-page: 1. A&A, agents Dave Rogers; 2. Ince & Co., agents Charles Barker City; 3. BOC International, agents Rieley Tibbitt and Partners.

Interiors of any size: 1. C. T.

Bowring, agents Walter Judd; 2. Jardine Matheson, agents Eric White and Associates (Hongkong); and Charles Barker City; 3. St-Gobain-Pant-A-Mous, agents Charles Barker City.

The winners of this second annual competition were announced by Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman and editor-in-chief of Times Newspapers. The awards were presented by Lord Shawcross, chairman of the panel of judges, which also included: Mr. A. F. Comford, Censor and Co; Mr. A. C. Everett, Binder Hamlyn Singleton Fabian; Mrs. Jacqueline Theatres, Inchcape School of Design; Mr. E. Palamouni, M & G Group; and Mr. Hugh Stephenson, editor of The Times Business News.

commissions three weeks in every month, which meant "institutionalising" their activities.

But the industrial countries, which argued that the commissions should meet only once a month to ensure high level representation and allow time to refer back to government, eventually got their way.

The 13 finance ministers of the Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries held parallel discussions in Paris today on the setting up of a \$1,000m aid fund, decided on last autumn to help developing countries over balance of payments and development programmes in 1976.

Most of the Opec discussions were taken up with the "administrative problems" involved in setting up the fund. A spokesman emphasized Opec did not wish to "institutionalize" the fund, or create a new organization to run it. The fund would be run by Opec through a novel kind of mechanism, and this aid would be distributed in the form of "institutional" rather than "political" contributions.

Among the administrative problems involved was the amount to be contributed by each of the 13 member countries.

## NVT sales target of 10,000 for new moped

By Clifford Webb

Norton Villiers Triumph is back in business with a new motorcycle. The first examples of a 50cc NVT moped went on sale this week at £145, and the company hopes to sell 10,000 in its first year.

NVT stopped all motorcycle production in December, and closed its remaining factory at Small Heath, Birmingham. The new moped—the NVT Easy Rider—is being assembled in a converted warehouse at Shenstone near Lichfield, by a newly registered company, NVT Motorcycles.

A labour force of only 10 is assembling the moped mainly from Italian components. It has a 50cc Morini two-stroke engine operating a single-speed transmission through an automatic clutch.

An NVT spokesman said last night: "The moped market in Britain was only just short of 100,000 machines last year. We believe that at £145 they are competitively priced against big sellers such as the Austrian Puch at £134, the cheapest Honda at £139 and the French Mobylette at £130."

## Winter set back for building orders

Builders now orders worth £468m in November, £135m less than in the previous month. This was probably slightly more of a drop than might have been expected, given a winter month, but the total was still marginally better, in current price terms, than that for November 1974.

Expressed at constant (1970) prices and adjusted to exclude seasonal variations, total new orders from September to November, 1975, were 6 per cent down on the previous three months, but 2 per cent up on the comparable period of 1974.

Farm machinery boost

Britain's exports of farm machinery and tractors last year expanded by nearly 50 per cent to a total of over £626m, compared with £419.4m in 1974. Imports rose by 41 per cent from £128.4m in 1974 to £180.5m last year.

## Investment in EEC

European Community countries' investment in this year is likely to remain "very moderate", the European Commission said in its latest monthly economic statement yesterday. However, the improvement in the economic climate may lead to an upward revision of capital spending programmes in some industries and countries.

## Irish Sea gas search

British Gas is to resume soon its search in the Irish Sea for commercial quantities of gas. Drilling in the area of the concretion gas fields, in the hydrocarbon-rich British, the corporation's exploration subsidiary, about 30 miles off Blackpool, could start next month.

## BP quits Turkey quest

British Petroleum has abandoned oil prospecting in Turkey after drilling an unsuccessful well in the eastern province of Sirt last year, according to oil industry sources in Ankara.

## £4.5m pit expansion

A £4.5m expansion programme at Bevercotes colliery in Nottinghamshire was announced by the National Coal Board yesterday. The scheme would double production by 1981-82 to 1.5 million tons a year and provide jobs for a further 330 miners.

## Scottish transport plea

Big road, rail and sea projects were needed for the remote north-eastern corner of Scotland, it was claimed yesterday by the Scottish Council, Development and Industry stated in a submission yesterday to Mr. Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland.

## UK sales to Japan up

Britain was the only major European industrial country to increase its market in Japan for key exports like transport equipment, machinery and manufactured goods last year. In the first 11 months of 1975 they rose 13.3 per cent over the same period of 1974.

## Lord Melchett attacks small firms' attitudes

By Our Industrial Editor

An attack on spokesmen for small businesses was delivered in Burley yesterday by Lord Melchett, newly appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry.

He said that his role of looking after the interests of smaller companies was not helped by attacks when he needed continuing, reasonable and responsible criticism and advice.

He told a seminar on services for small businesses: "I must frankly say to you that hysterical, and I suspect politically motivated threats do not help small firms at all, and they certainly will not help me in putting forward the small firms' case."

The single most important and urgent thing the Government could do by way of help was to get inflation under control. It involved fully restoring and maintaining the confidence of business as a whole, not least of all small companies.

"I can assure you that the Government won't hesitate to introduce measures designed to help the sector should this seem to be desirable."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Planning for change in industry

From Sir Iain M. Stewart

Sir, The rising trend in unemployment should not be a surprise to anyone who appreciates that in depressed Britain today there can be no alternative when all sectors of industry are not only attempting to cope with inflation and high taxation, but also to respond to the urgent need for competitive efficiency in world markets.

Some companies are simply struggling to avoid bankruptcy. Total failure to anticipate the obvious social consequences of change has been a recurring feature of all British governments and their respective advisers since the war.

Regrettably long-term planning, which requires radical change in employer attitudes and trade union rule books, is not a rote catcher, and it is easier to print money, subsidise inefficiency and condone over-managing.

Whatever the accuracy of the statistics, the truth is, particularly in the traditional craft industries, that there are hundreds of thousands of tradesmen who are potentially redundant and at best must live with

the certain prospect of a fall in status due to downgrading as semi-skilled or unskilled operators as the only refuge from unemployment.

The unions quite rightly resist this unnecessary threat and undoubtedly, even though moderate opinion is clearly on the ascendancy, will continue to do so until retraining/planned redeployment facilities are available through which they can be provided with alternative employment of equal status.

In Sweden, for instance, where living standards are high and unemployment is more or less confined to the unemployable, never less than 1 per cent of the working population undergo retraining for other skills due to the interchangeability, flexibility and mobility that exists between the trade unions within crafts, companies and industries.

The result is that management can pursue growth in productivity and plan the adjustment of the work force according to the rise and fall in market demand.

The control system is not perfect but such redundancy schemes as are now proposed by Leyland, Chrysler, and the would be anticipated and make the headlines. Until such methods are adopted in United Kingdom even power redundancy will continue to be regarded as a threat to employment and real product will remain stagnant.

Better late than never, to use the Manpower Plan Commission to set up a scheme in Scotland where population is of equal size to Sweden and the unemployment percentages are higher anywhere else in the Kingdom?

Such a move, to be rather than confront the reality of the unions, does not wait to await an elected government, and would be widely accepted as a sensible, non-political advance on current attitudes about the mixed economy greater devolution.

Yours faithfully,

IAIN STEWART,  
Lochbuie House,  
53 Dryden Road,  
Beardsden,  
Glasgow G61 2RN.

### Helping to fill engineering jobs

From Mr. M. C. Beal

Sir, It is a remarkable situation with unemployment at present levels that the Department of Employment should be so inflexible in its methods of operation.

My company is expanding rapidly and seeks to recruit a wide cross section of engineering personnel. This led me to write a personal letter to seven Employment Information Centres in the major unemployment areas asking them to refer suitable candidates for interview and at the same time to advise

me of engineering companies that are or may shortly be contemplating redundancies.

You can, therefore, imagine my dismay at having received only one reply which showed any real interest, the first four have referred my vacancies to the local Employment Centre who, of course, already know of my requirements.

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. BEAL,  
Managing Director,  
Aircrowd Howden Limited,  
Weybridge,  
Surrey KT15 2QR,  
January 22.

### Trouble over credit cards

From The Rev H. A. Williams

Sir, Like all Religious I have no money of my own, so I do not have a bank account. But since I arrived at this Community in July, 1969, I have had sent to me unsolicited through the post six (or it may be seven) Barclaycards. It would be all right if like a cheque they could be torn up and thrown into the waste-paper basket. But Barclaycards are not so easily destructible. Why should I have the regular, and annoying, reminder, trouble of cutting them up with a saw?

I would be grateful for advice from your readers. If I have a Barclaycard and possess no money, presumably I am liable to legal penalties? If, however, I could be reliably informed that the bank alone would have to bear the damage, then, next time a Barclaycard arrives I will use it to buy some caviar and champagne for myself and my brethren.

Yours angrily but hopefully,  
H. A. WILLIAMS,  
Community of the Resurrection,  
House of the Resurrection,  
Miffled,  
Yorkshire,  
January 16.

### Doing a deal over the tachograph

From Mr. Charles Simeons

Sir, Is the tachograph so very different from other recording instruments attached to sophisticated industrial equipment and welcomed by operators who do their jobs well, for it to be tagged the "lorry spy" (January 20)?

If HGV drivers are to enjoy status and conditions similar to their colleagues in the factory, they must accept similar instrumentation—which many realize all too well.

Surely this provides the chance for the unions to do a deal over the totting up system which at present can result in a total penalty upon disqualification and subsequent loss of unemployment benefit up to five times the maximum which the law permits the courts to pass.

To provide whatever wherever demanded the immediate remedial service proposed by Sir Williams would find this facility extended to him, for example, his telephone installation faulty when one of ferry vessels was in difficulty.

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Yours faithfully,

CHARLES SIMONS,  
21 Ludlow Avenue,  
Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3RW,  
January 20.

### ECGD policy premiums

From Mr. B. P. Holt

Sir, The initial premium for Export Credit Guarantee Department policy, without which we could not export, and on which further premiums are payable on individual declarations, has risen as follows:

1971/4 £5 for 3 years  
1974/6 £10 for 2 years  
1976/7 £20 for 1 year.

(During this period we have not made any claims.)

Apart from being less than helpful to a small exporter, is not this an inflationary record, even for a Government department?

Yours faithfully,  
B. P. HOLT,  
Director,  
A. Holt & Sons Limited,  
115 Whitcross Street,  
London EC1Y 8JQ,  
January 23.

## Chrysler-VW decision near

Detroit, Jan. 27.—Chrysler Corporation and Volkswagen are expected to decide "within a month" whether Chrysler will buy engines from VW for use in its planned subcompact car, industry sources said.

Negotiations have been going on for several months on

various car-making and parts arrangements.

Industry sources said the possible arrangement initially involves only the purchase by Chrysler of VW power plants, or engines and related parts, designed for smaller cars.

## Japan in talks on £650m nuclear sale to Russia

Moscow, Jan. 27.—Negotiations began here today on a scheme for Japan to sell the Soviet Union 10 nuclear power plants worth about 400,000,000 yen (about £650m).

A 14-man delegation representing Japan's nuclear power industry, one of officials of the Soviet State Atomic Energy Commission to discuss the proposed deal. They agreed on a schedule of negotiations to last until the end of the week, Japanese sources said.

According to the Japanese atomic industrial forum in Tokyo, the Soviet Union has shown an interest in the power plants for its new five-year plan which continues until the end of 1990. Each plant would have an output of up to 1.3 million kilowatts.—Reuter.

## Far Eastern Review

In a report published on November 10, The Far Eastern Economic Review was described as a "semi-official" publication. The Review is jointly owned by the South China Morning Post and the Dow Jones Company, with no element of government ownership.

## Life offices reopen debate on commission rates

By Margaret Stone

The Life Offices Association has reopened the question of differential commission rates for insurance brokers, agents and other intermediaries.

The move follows the recent formation of the British Insurance Brokers Council, which ultimately aims to unify the four principal insurance brokers' organizations into one professional body.

At the same time a questionnaire has been sent out to all insurance offices asking them to give a breakdown of the amount of business coming from various sources. This is at the request of the Department of Trade.

There is nothing new to the idea of differential commission rates. It was first debated by

## Jetsave moves into inclusive holidays field

By Patricia Tisdall

Jetsave, probably the largest of the transatlantic advance booking charter companies, announced a diversification programme into inclusive holidays yesterday.

Previously specializing in low-cost travel across the Atlantic, Jetsave, which expects a gross turnover this year of around £10.5m, is moving into the holiday field.

Prices start at £135 for 13 nights in New York inclusive of air travel and accommodation. Other destinations include Los Angeles, Toronto, Miami Beach, Chicago, San Francisco and Vancouver.

The holidays are operated in conjunction with scheduled airlines including TWA and British Airways. Also involved are Hilton Hotels, Holiday Inns, and the Greyhound bus company. The holidays are covered by a money-back guarantee.

Overall, travel to the United States fell during the first nine months of 1975 to 340,982 according to figures compiled by the United States Travel Service. This is a drop of 5.5 per cent on the 360,993 who entered the country in the same period of 1974.

## Lord Melchett attacks small firms' attitudes

By Our Industrial Editor

An attack on spokesmen for small businesses was delivered in Burley yesterday by Lord Melchett, newly appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry.

He said that his role of looking after the interests of smaller companies was not helped by attacks when he needed continuing, reasonable and responsible criticism and advice.

He told a seminar on services for small businesses: "I must frankly say to you that hysterical, and I suspect politically motivated threats do not help small firms at all, and they certainly will not help me in putting forward the small firms' case."

The single most important and urgent thing the Government could do by way of help was to get inflation under control. It involved fully restoring and maintaining the confidence of business as a whole, not least of all small companies.

"I can assure you that the Government won't hesitate to introduce measures designed to help the sector should this seem to be desirable."

## Equipment leasing record

Britain's equipment leasing companies had a record year in 1975, buying new plant worth £340m and boosting the total cost of leased assets to £1,425m, a rise of almost a third on 1974.

The Equipment Leasing Association said that last year its 35 member companies also collected a record £280m in lease rentals against £222m the previous year. At the end of 1975, the total number of leased contracts on members' books was 321,000.

## McCORQUODALE

International specialist printers

Mr. Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman, reports in his statement to shareholders for the year ended 30th September, 1975:

- \* Profit before tax 22% up on last year.
- \* Rights Issue has significantly improved the financial strength of the Company.
- \* Investment in specialist activities provides a strong base for future progress and growth.

### Year ended 30th September

	1975	1974
£000	£000	
Group Turnover	40,964	28,975
Profit before Taxation	2,344	1,923
Net Profit	1,170	863
Earnings per share	27.0p	20.4p
Ordinary Dividend	12.750p	11.329p

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, McCorquodale & Company Limited, P.O. Box 66, McCorquodale House, Telford Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2JA.







## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Unemployment starts to cast its shadow

The likely reaction of the Government to trade union pressure on unemployment is beginning to have an increasing effect on stock market sentiment.

After its recent strength, the gilt-edged market showed a touch of nervousness yesterday, especially at the longer end, and without this support leading equities started to drift on a fairly modest amount of selling.

The pace of the decline accelerated as the day went on and the FT Index, 1.8 off at 2 pm, closed the session at 395.5, a net fall of 4.6 on the day. Matters were quiet, with a broker's forecast that interest rates will rise over the longer term.

In the last account the total value of all transactions was £7,324.34m, against £7,217.78m in the previous period, which only lasted for nine days. The figure for equities was sharply up, from £607.96m to £905.5m.

**British Land at 31p is now safely above its par value of 25p.** Observers noted a massive rights issue, buttressed by two big institutions. An issue has seemed possible since September when chairman Mr. R. B. B. spoke of sales to raise money and lower gearing. Last autumn, of course, the shares were well beneath par value.

With most selling centred on the "blue chips" there were some big drops. The worst hit was Bessborough, down 1p to 34.2p, but Fisons gave up 10p to 390p, Unilever 8p to 432p, and Glaxo 7p to 380p.

The one exception was British American Tobacco which has figures due next week, having closed 2p off at 358p, having held on to its overnight level for much of the day.

The big engineers did rather better than average and, still helped by the steel industry settlement, GKN managed to add a penny to 290p. Tube Investments stayed unmoved at 340p and Davy International, with the additional help of more-than-doubled interim prof-

its, closed a couple of pence firmer at 135p.

The announcement of higher export prices for whisky gave an initial lift to Distillers but this was not held on to and the shares ended 1 1/2p down to 147p. Teachers, though, did manage to maintain a sympathetic rise of 2p to 217p.

Some of the best features were provided by stock shortages in a thin market and typical were United Newspapers, better by no less than 15p to 255p, and Oxo, 8p to the good at 134p. Also on the paper pitch, Reed International's quarterly figures were much as expected and the shares closed at an unchanged 275p.

Two to feature recently after results are Tate & Lyle and Mander & Carter. The latter stayed firm at an unchanged 145p, but Tate gave up 4p to 266p of its recent rise.

In a generally weaker stores pitch, Allied Retailers, firmer by 5p to 133p, and Debenhams, up a point to 98p, smudged out as firm exceptions. After the announcement of big North Sea contracts, however, what was a shade firmer at 53p.

The financial sector saw Lloyds 27 1/2p, Midland 31 1/2p and Barclays 34 1/2p all off 3p among the clearer. The weakest was National Westminster with a dip of 5p to 285p.

In the main, insurances were a few points down, as were properties with the notable exception of Haslemere Estates 2p to 216p and Chesterfield 3p to 148p. Hambros soared 8p to 220p in books with the expected debut of Hambros Life.

Some favourable comment helped Cavenham to add 4p to 153p, while a warning of cost increases from the Xerox chairman was enough to clip 5p to 153p from the "A" shares of Rank.

Motor-related shares had a reasonable day with BSC Inter-continental trading firmly at 17 1/2p and Lucas 199p also a good spot. Earlier board changes helped PMA Holdings to go ahead 6p to 58p.

In oils, more reports of the increased cost of oil in Alaska pipeline weakened BP 9p to 53 1/2p while favourable reaction to its tanker deal added 1 1/2p to 34p. Both Shell 386p and Ultramar 198 1/2p were weaker, by 2p and 3 1/2p respectively.

After the softness of recent days, falls among gold shares were limited to about 25p, but in mines Charter gave up 5p to 61p, still suffering from its withdrawal from the Tenke venture. This means that since the announcement the shares have dropped almost 30p.

Weston Pharmaceuticals gave up 2p to 74 1/2p of the recent gain scored after terms from Dixon's, while McCarthy's Pharmaceuticals traded fairly after an interim result. Other reporting had Sidlaw 8p better at 72p and Lonsdale Universal losing 2p to 62p.

The prospect of a brighter future presided by the chairman helped Charterhouse to go ahead 4p to 35p. Nervousness ahead of interim figures next week led Decca "A" down 6p to 260p.

In after hours trading, prices tended to drift even easier. Where changed, leading shares gave up a penny or while short-dated gilts also came back a shade.

Breweries lost ground though the earlier whisky announcement helped the associated companies. There were offerings in buildings, foods, engineers and insurances but in each case declines were small.

Gold shares assumed a mixed pose but a drop in profits weakened Leyland 10p to 140p and a couple of pence

to 33p. Gilts were quieter than on Monday. A reaction to recent rises developed, but it did not amount to much and losses were modest. Mr. Hesley's promise of more measures to help the unemployment situation also dampened sentiment slightly.

"Shorts" opened 1/16 point

**Intercontinental Property Holdings** agreement to buy minority holdings in its 108,000 square metres of Paris warehousing could add up to 20p to Intercontinental's 71p net assets a share. At 47 1/2p the shares should rise sharply on an earnings forecast for the Paris properties, and for the buying Classic Cinema side in 1974-75's results, due this Friday.

higher, held the rise for most of the morning, but then slipped back in the afternoon. Eventually most stocks were 1/16 or 1/32 point off on the day. The coupon rate on the "yearling" issue was 10 1/2 per cent.

"Longs" were generally a point down on the day. Equity turnover on January 26 was £87.22m (20,830 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday

were: Barnard, Oil, ICI, Barclays Bank, Hambros, Weston Pharmaceuticals, Rank "A", Midland Bank, BP, GKN, General Electric, Dixon's "A", Cavenham, Treasury 3 per cent 1979, Distillers, National Carbonising and Avon Rubber.

## Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
American Brands Qtr	70c	ago	date	total	year
Armour (25p) Fin	1.3	1/3	—	0.2	—
Concrete (25p) Int	1.3	1/3	—	2.83	—
Davy Int (25p) Int	2.1	1/3	—	5.68	—
Hambros Trust (25p) Int	0.46	2/2	—	1.56	—
Leyland (25p) Fin	2.18	1/3	—	3.77	—
Lonsdale Universal (25p) Fin	2.62	1/4	—	3.35	—
M.L. Edges (25p) Int	1.01	1/4	—	3.13	—
National Can Qtr	14.25c	2/3	—	4.9	—
Sidlaw (50p) Fin	3.2	1/3	—	4.20	—
Syntex (25p) Int	1.05	1/3	—	1.75	—
Western Select (20p) Fin	0.92	1/3	—	1.8	—

Dividends in this table are net of tax at 0p per share. Elsewhere, dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

## Armour dives deeper in to red

Property developments in Brussels and United Kingdom residential sites were chiefly a blame for Armour Trust going deeper into the red in the year to April 30, 1975. It now faces a deficit of £1.1m.

A buoyant fourth quarter saw profits, soaring from £14.9m (41c a share) to £22.7m (64c a share), on revenues up from £231.7m to £241.3m. For the 12 months, profits leapt nearly threefold from £37.5m to £95.7m, with revenues increased from £800.6m to £979.3m. The fourth quarter dividend rises from 15c to 20c.

Mr. Donald Regan, chairman and president, said most major operating areas participated in the year's healthy expansion. Commission revenues showed a 38.6 per cent gain in 1975.

The group has gone a long way towards transforming itself from a brokerage house into a wide-ranging international financial group. A feature of the past year was the strong revenue on options transactions. Revenues from commodities also went up, and investment banking showed record underwritings.—AP-DJ and Reuters.

## Merrill Lynch thundering on

Reporting bumper earnings for the first six months, Merrill Lynch, the world's largest stockbroker, indeed thundered out of calendar year 1975 with records on all fronts.

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**CONSOLIDATED EDISON** On revenues of £2,439.5m, operating profit for 1975 rose from £208.9m to £274.7m. Operating profit a share rose from 52.6c to 57.4c. Dividend raised from 30c to 40c. US figures.—Reuters.

**Good start by Vectis** Thanks to fair weather in the first quarter of the current year, trading at Vectis Stone has improved on last year. In his review of the year to last September 30, Mr. J. A. K. Collins, chairman of this Isle of Wight company, says he expects results for the current year to be at least as good as last year's pre-tax of £248,000.

However, he cannot see an

## Sidlaw now poised to recover

The downturn in North Sea oil activity and poor trading in world textiles which split the figures from Sidlaw Industries at half time soured those for the full year to September 26 as well.

Pre-tax profits fell from £800,000 to £555,000 after an interim drop from £434,000 to £310,000. Turnover improved from £38,000 to £43,500. Contributions from associates included in the pre-tax total dwindled from £502,000 to £118,000. Earnings a share fell from 6.5p to 6.1p, but the total payout is 7.5p gross against 7.31p.

But better things however should be seen this year and the shares duly rose yesterday. Profits of Aberdeen Service (Norfolk) are expected to be still higher, with the outturn in the second-half thanks to seasonal influences probably surpassing the opening contribution. For the rest of the group, the results for the opening quarter are much healthier than envisaged, though the board is cautious unless the United Kingdom economy shows firm evidence of a revival.

**Cedar 'trading profitably'** The good news from Cedar Holdings in the annual report of Mr. Simon Coors, chairman, is that the company is back in profits. Cedar, one of the secondary houses rescued from the ringo banking crisis two years ago, slashed its losses from £51.6m to £16.3m in the year to end-June, 1975.

In the first half of the current year, the last December, the rent year was not too far off from when the company's quotation was held to be restored.

**ML ahead but growth is still slackening** The growth of engineering group ML Holdings slackened in the 1974-75 year, though profits were a peak £506,000. Now we learn that the improvement in the half-year to September 30 was slight. Pre-tax profits went up from £243,000 to £239,000 on a turnover of £5,911m against £3.1m. But profits are not related to turnover but to contracts completed in the latest six months. The interim profit was £256,000 gross again. The full year's profits to March 31 next are expected to match the preceding year's £506,000.

**Progress all round at Hudson's Bay Oil** Calgary, Alberta, January 27.—Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas's net earnings for 1975 were \$69.7m (about £5m) or \$3.63 a share, compared with \$59.7m (about £4.3m) or \$3.63 a share, compared with \$59.7m (about £4.3m) or \$3.63 a share, compared with \$59.7m (about £4.3m) or \$3.63 a share.

Funds generated from operations were \$120.2m (\$6.34) compared with \$91.5m (\$4.33). Total dividends rose from 95 cents to \$1.25.

Total revenues were \$327.8m, a gain of \$69.2m, primarily arising from higher prices for crude oil and natural gas established by the Federal and provincial governments.

The rapid growth in the company's foreign exploration activities continued during the year with the acquisition of interests in blocks of acreage offshore from Greenland, the United Kingdom and Indonesia.

Seismic surveys were carried out on all of these new acquired offshore holdings during the year.

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## Lonsdale Univ loses steam

Much in line with the board's interim forecast, the pre-tax profits of Lonsdale University eased from a record £12.1m to £11m in the year to last September 30.

This Brentford-based group has wide interests, including office equipment, stationery, publishing and book-selling, retailing, engineering, packaging, printing and property. Just as conditions in retailing and packaging were getting tougher and this was borne out by other divisions reported higher profits.

The attributable profit was cut from £692,000 to £541,000. But the board is raising the final dividend from 3.7p to 4.03p gross, bringing the total for the year to 5.80p (5.43p). Earnings a share declined from 11.33p to 8.77p. On a fully diluted basis they were down from 10.50p to 8.47p.

**Abysmal results from American Smelting** Profits of American Smelting and Refining in the final quarter of 1975 plunged to mere \$96,000 compared with \$136,000 for the same period in 1974. The company is one of the market leaders in lead and zinc.

The late slump was partly responsible for the full-year profits being cut to less than one-fifth of the 1974 figures at \$254,444 compared with \$130,444. (Because of a change in accounting standards over exchange gains, the 1974 figures have been restated, giving an increase of \$4,560m.)

Earnings throughout the year suffered from weak demand and depressed prices for some of its main non-ferrous products. The up from \$243,000 to \$239,000 on a turnover of £5,911m against £3.1m. But profits are not related to turnover but to contracts completed in the latest six months. The interim profit was £256,000 gross again. The full year's profits to March 31 next are expected to match the preceding year's £506,000.

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## Duplicate costs will slow down Xerox Co

Further details of the group's latest office products were disclosed yesterday by Mr. McClellan, chairman of Xerox Corporation, who said that the source for Rank Xerox was addressing a meeting of institutional investors.

He expects costs in the 9200 high-speed system to reach a hundred million dollars a year. So Xerox will not be able to project a cent growth in profits, projection remains in the long term. His Rank shares in London, the "A" fell 5p to 162.

Last week, Xerox reported a drop in net income in 26 per cent to \$24m, predicted that the year would continue to be part of the year. Its original 9200 machine, which had been in production since May 1973, is now being lowered by several more.

The Xerox president, Mr. McClellan, said yesterday that Xerox is now behind schedule in 9200 units and that it is "less than expected" more.

**Auditors' doubts on Century Secs** The accounts of loss-makers Century Securities for 15 months to July 31 last have been qualified. The auditors say the accounts assume the continuing support of financial institutions as in previous years. Moreover, they are not satisfied about the reason for the "significant decrease in gross profit margins of Volmax." This company made pre-tax losses of some £204,000.

Mr. J. M. Moody, chairman, in his annual statement, reports that the period to end-November, 1975, indicates that the group as a whole is now trading profitably.

**Western Selection raises dividend** The pre-tax profits of Western Selection & Development, in which East Rand Consolidated has a 42.6 per cent stake, soared 62 per cent to £429,000 in the year to last September 30. At the half-way stage profits were up 33 per cent to £216,000. The final outcome puts the group close to its best-ever figure of £473,000.

Shareholders will get a final payment of 1.41p gross, which, with the interim of 1.34p, brings the total payment for the year to 2.75p, compared with 2.61p. After heavier tax, the net profit went down from £141,000 to £100,000. Earnings a share fell from 4.4p to 3.9p.

**Syltore falters** Down goes Syltore, but there was never much doubt about that. At the annual meeting in September, Mr. J. A. G. Collins, chairman of this Bradford-based maker of pumps and compressors, said the next 18 months would be the "most difficult since the 1930s". So the pre-tax profits of £142,000 against £184,000 for the half-year to September 30 could have been worse. Shareholders can draw some comfort from an unchanged interim dividend of 1.50p, compared with 1.41p in 1974.

**Big slump at US Steel** As with many other branches of United States heavy industry, US Steel took a posting in 1975, right up to the end of the year. Last-quarter earnings, which had been \$50m to \$12m, on sales reduced from \$2,446m to \$1,997m. This left the year's profits down from \$630m to \$100m, turnover falling by \$1,000m to \$930m.

The profit margin in the last quarter fell 52 per cent, against 6.9 per cent, but the full-year return was unchanged at 6.7 per cent.

Fourth-quarter shipments were 2m tons lower at 3.7m tons, and the year's were cut from 25.5m to 17.5m tons. Production was also sharply reduced.

**G. R. FRANCIS GROUP** On turnover of £1.58m to £1.88m, pre-tax profits fell from £103,000 to £66,000 in half-year to Sept 30. Turnover to date already exceeds year to March 31, 1975 and in the last quarter it was 10 per cent higher than last year, board reports.

**Aztec Oil-Southland** All members of Aztec Oil and Gas's board intend to tender their shares to Southland

**Good start by Vectis** Thanks to fair weather in the first quarter of the current year, trading at Vectis Stone has improved on last year. In his review of the year to last September 30, Mr. J. A. K. Collins, chairman of this Isle of Wight company, says he expects results for the current year to be at least as good as last year's pre-tax of £248,000.

However, he cannot see an

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## Duplicate costs will slow down Xerox Co

Further details of the group's latest office products were disclosed yesterday by Mr. McClellan, chairman of Xerox Corporation, who said that the source for Rank Xerox was addressing a meeting of institutional investors.







ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. § Cootango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 17  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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The American General Manager of a world bank subsidiary company, specialising in international finance consultancy, is seeking a Secretary to set up and maintain a new UK headquarters for the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will be required to provide a secretarial service to the GM and part of his multi-national team of consultants. Probably late 20's/early 30's, it is essential that you have both spoken and commercial fluency in at least two of the following: plus English as a first language. French, German, Italian & Spanish.

Secretarial and administrative skills of a very high standard are, of course, essential, together with previous experience in financial or business environment at a high level of responsibility. This is a demanding position requiring considerable personal commitment, maturity and poise. A great deal of the time you will be working on your own initiative and discretion.

In order that you gain a clear grasp of the essential requirements in setting up this new London base, a short period of induction and training will be spent at the operation's present headquarters in Europe.

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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New company, W.1, opening new London showroom, is looking for a Secretary with good admin. and sales experience. Also able to cope at all levels. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will be required to provide a secretarial service to the GM and part of his multi-national team of consultants. Probably late 20's/early 30's, it is essential that you have both spoken and commercial fluency in at least two of the following: plus English as a first language. French, German, Italian & Spanish.

Secretarial and administrative skills of a very high standard are, of course, essential, together with previous experience in financial or business environment at a high level of responsibility. This is a demanding position requiring considerable personal commitment, maturity and poise. A great deal of the time you will be working on your own initiative and discretion.

In order that you gain a clear grasp of the essential requirements in setting up this new London base, a short period of induction and training will be spent at the operation's present headquarters in Europe.

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## OFFICE SERVICES SUPERVISOR

A newly created appointment has occurred for a capable person to take responsibility for the office services of the Company. The successful candidate will have proven ability in the co-ordination and control of stationery, office equipment, furniture, press cutting services and the ability to grasp the basic knowledge of mechanical equipment. Attention to detail is essential.

You will probably be 30 plus, able to control and deal tactfully with people at all levels, and also be able to type and compose own letters.

Salary £23,000, Green Park area.

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(continued on page 26)

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